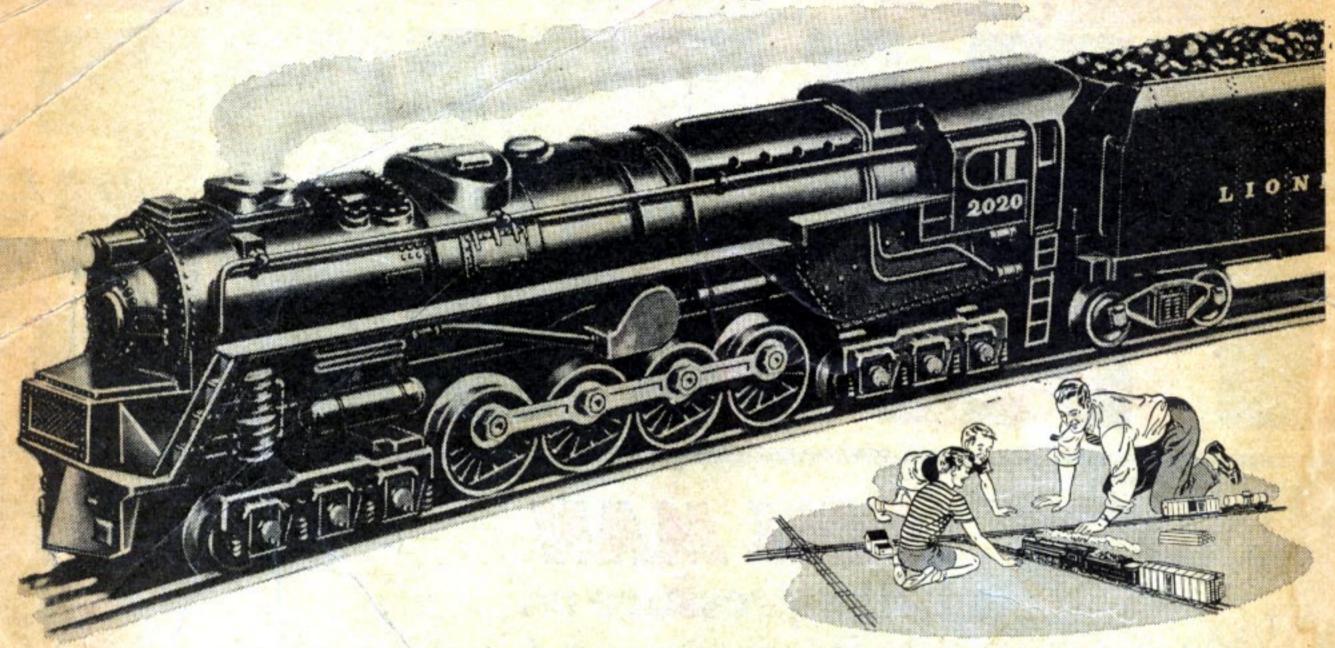






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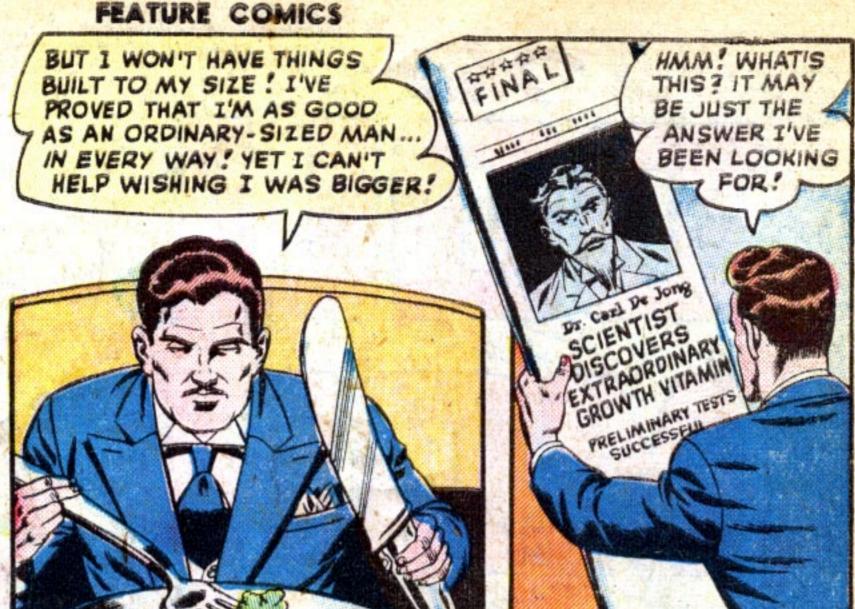
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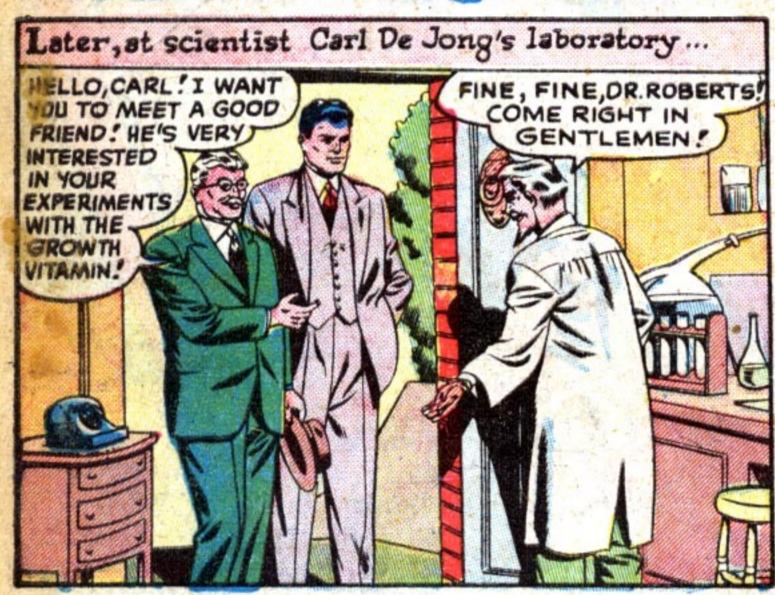
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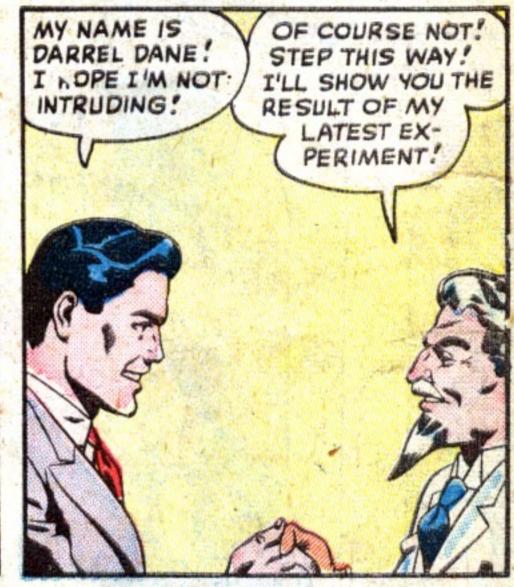


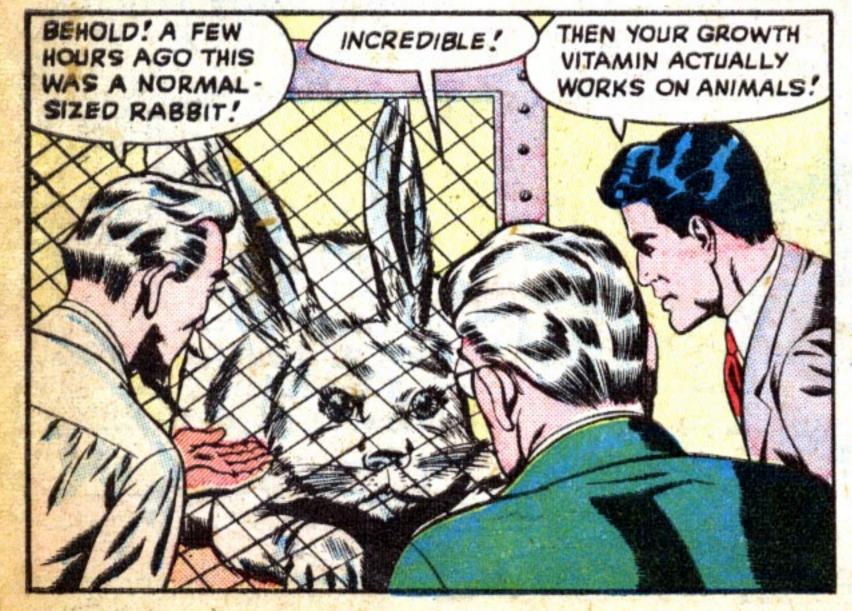


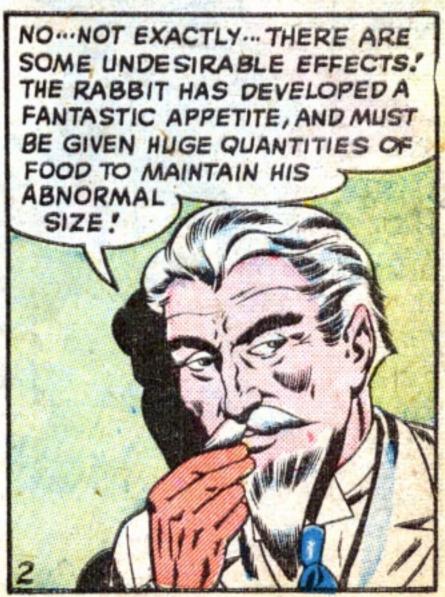








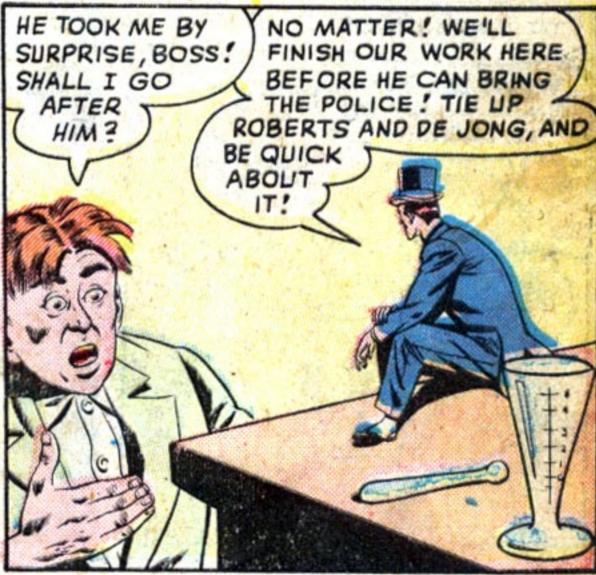




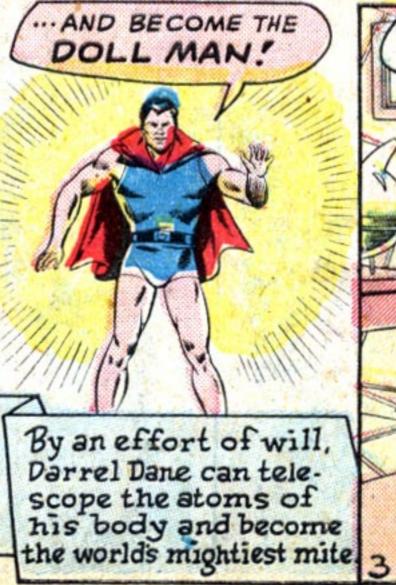




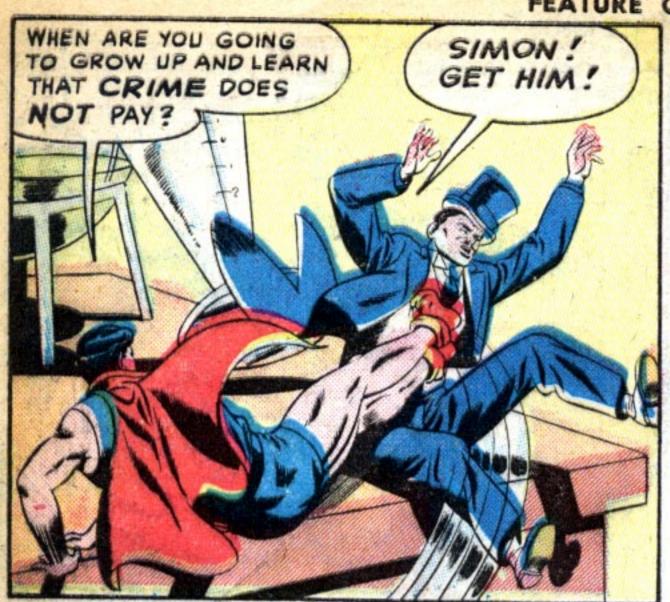










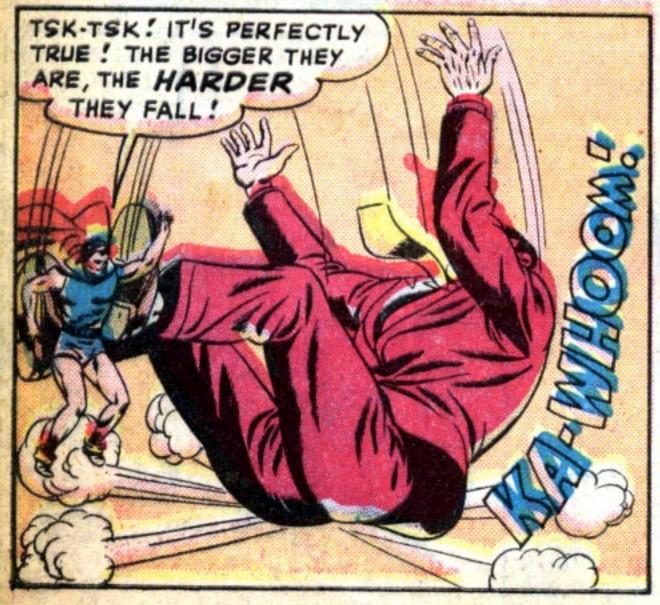




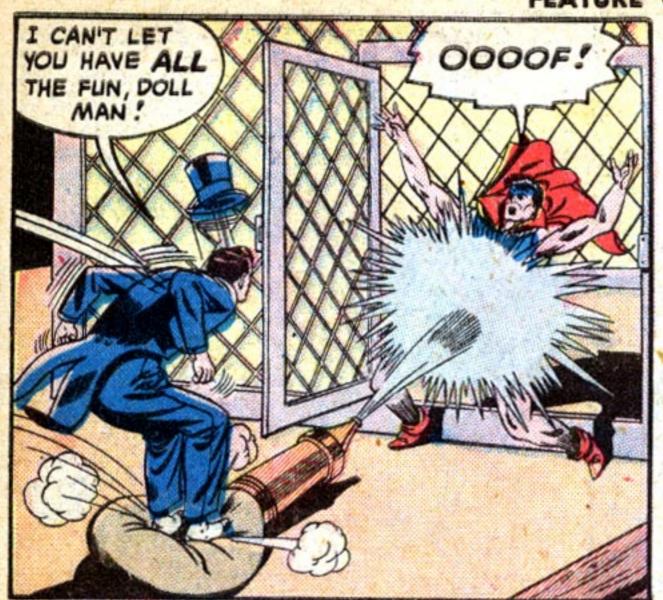


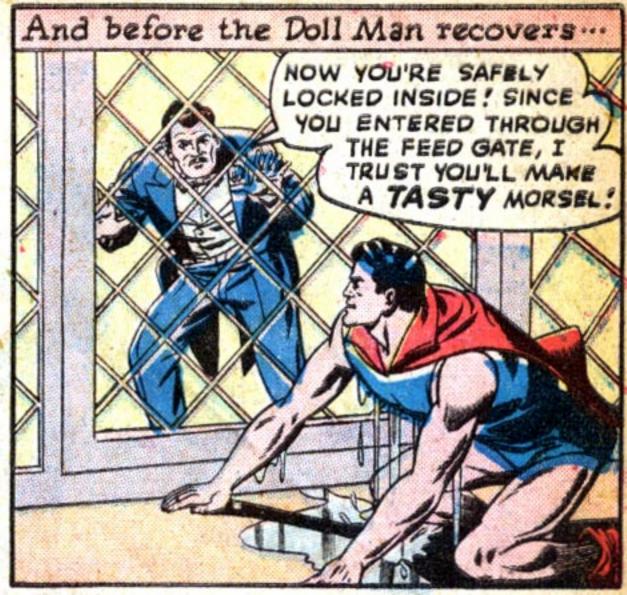




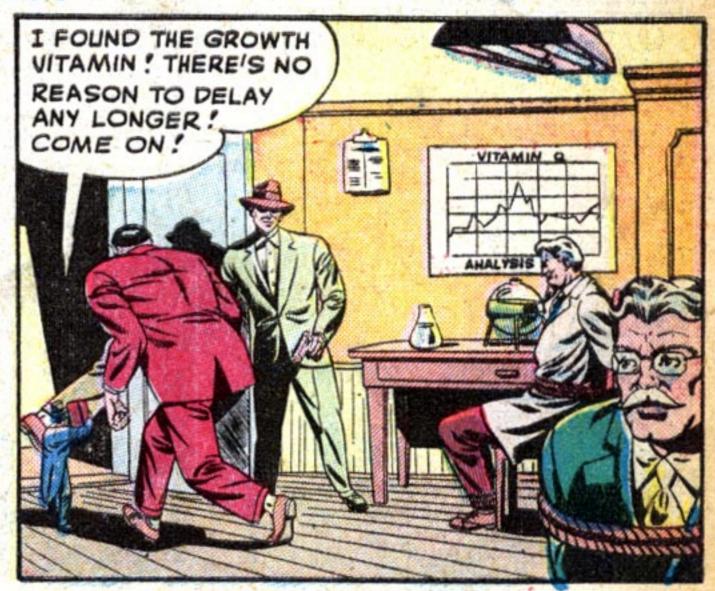








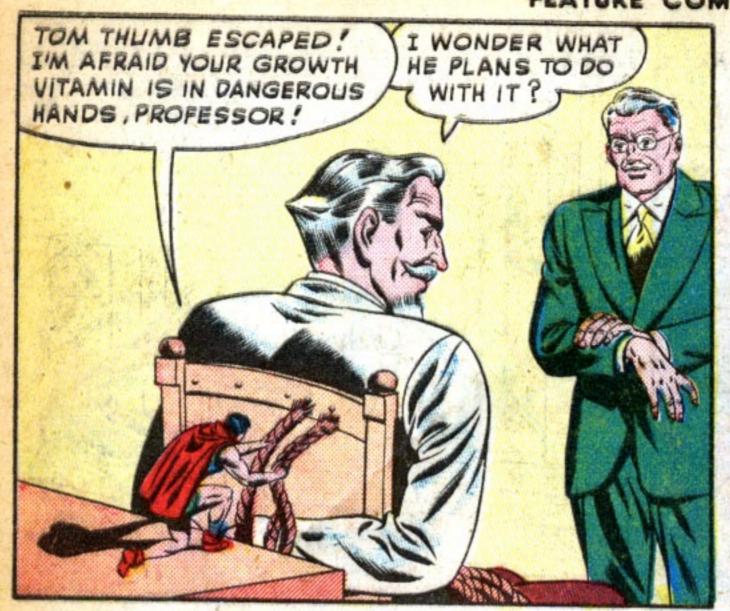


















I'M RAVENOUSLY
HUNGRY, TOO! SEND
UP HALF A DOZEN
STEAKS, A COUPLE
OF TURKEYS AND A
ROAST HAM! HAHA! WE'RE GOING
TO CELEBRATE!



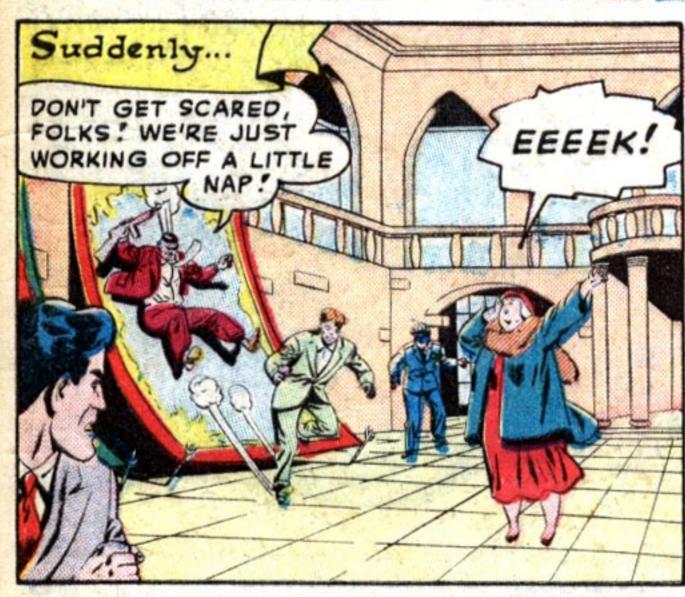




ster, at the rare tapestry exhibit in the municipal









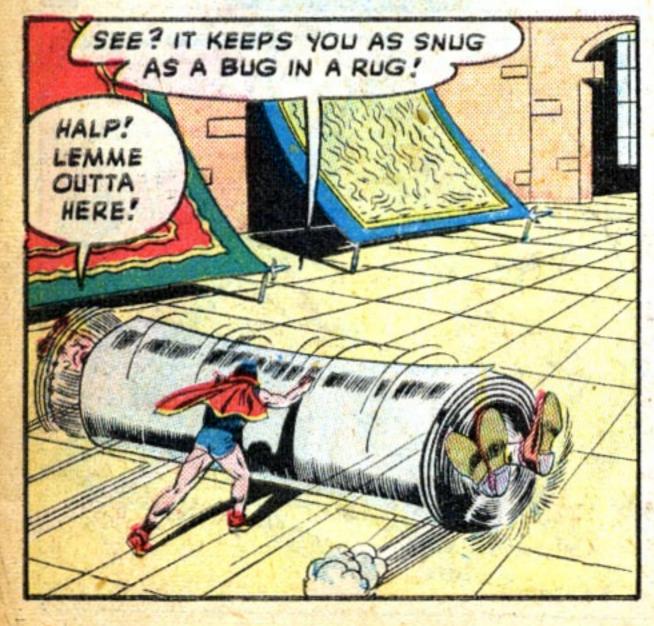


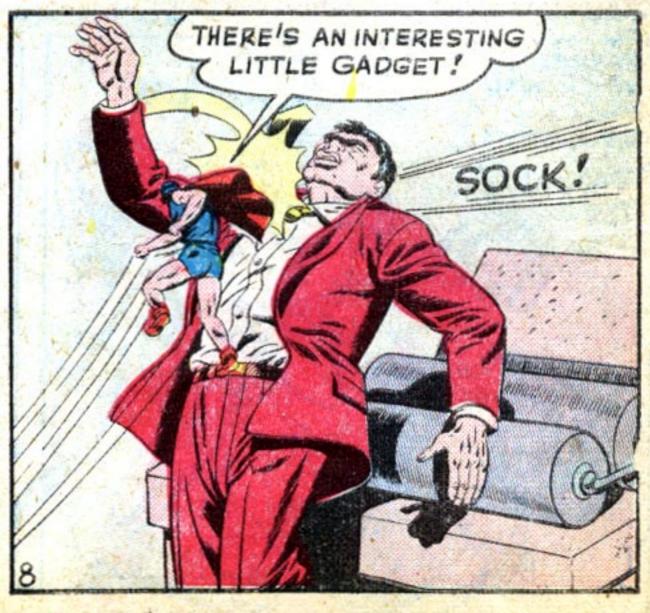














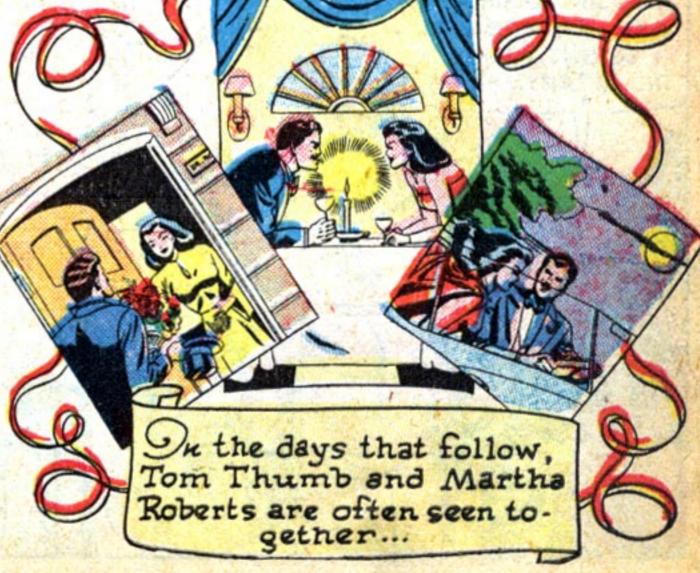




















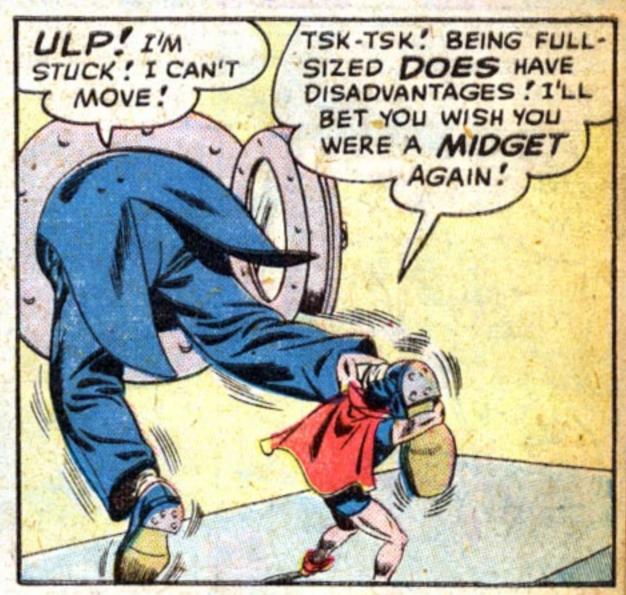












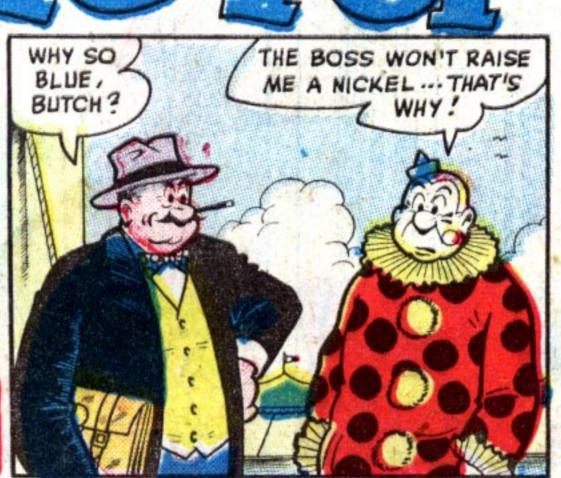




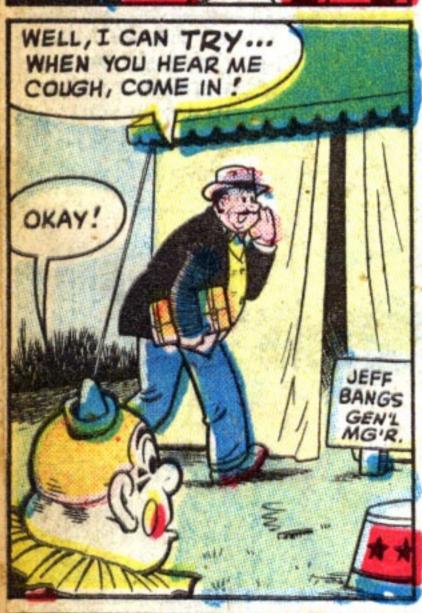


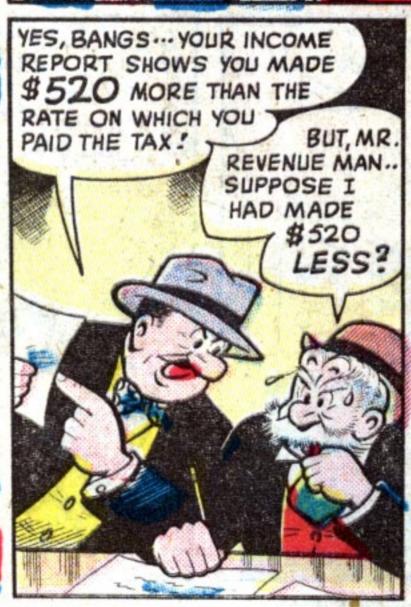




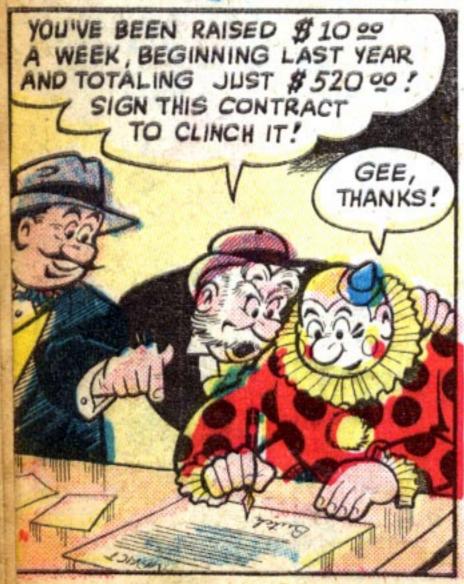




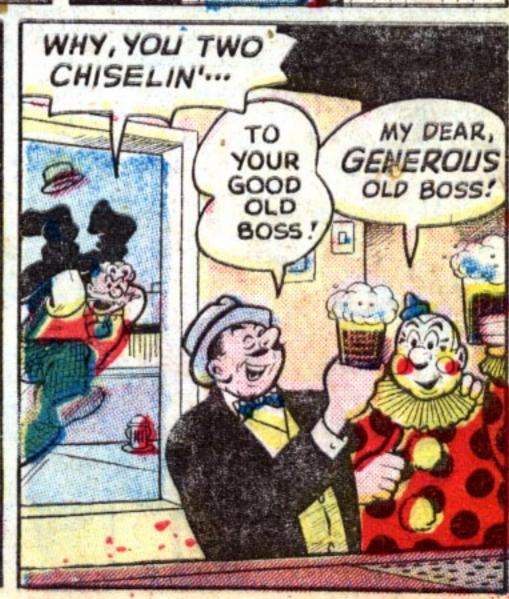


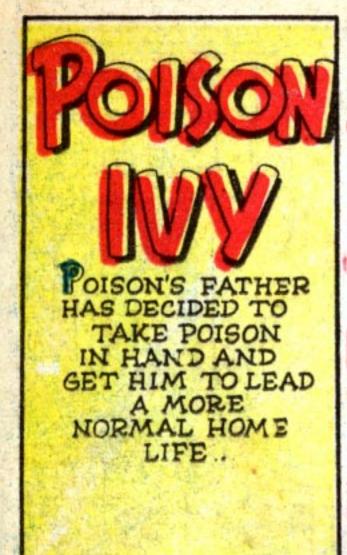


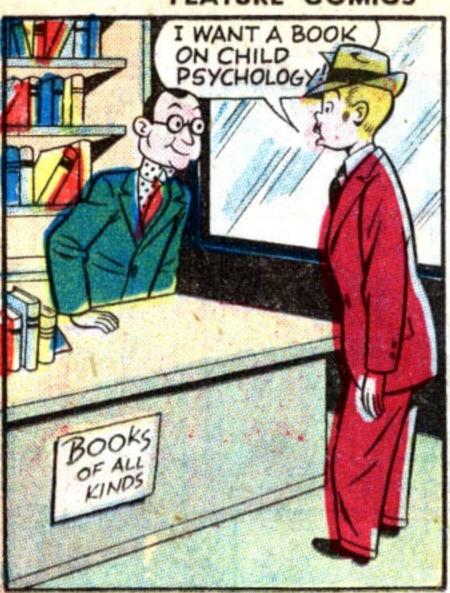






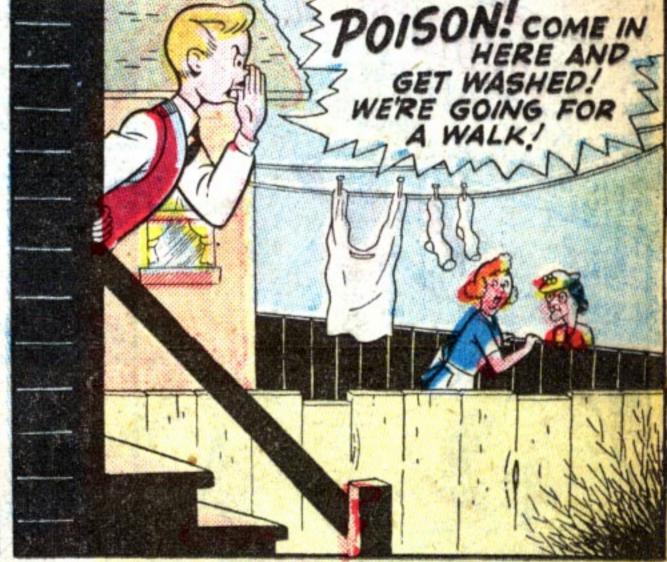




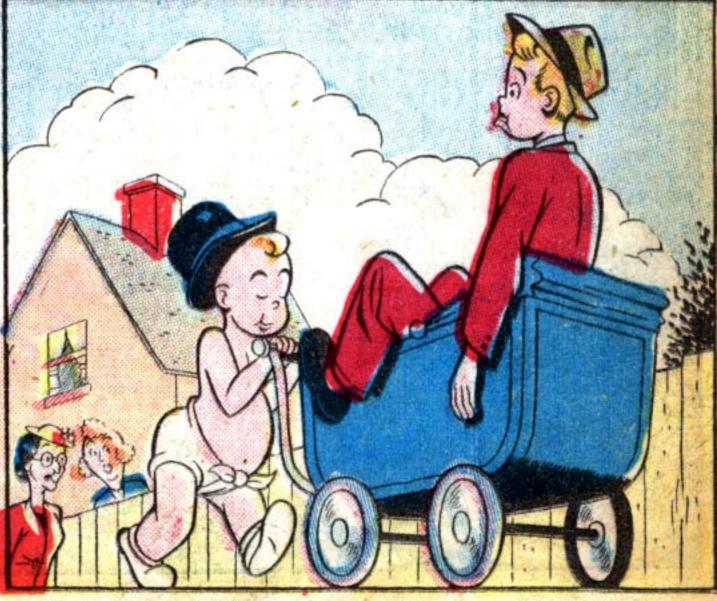


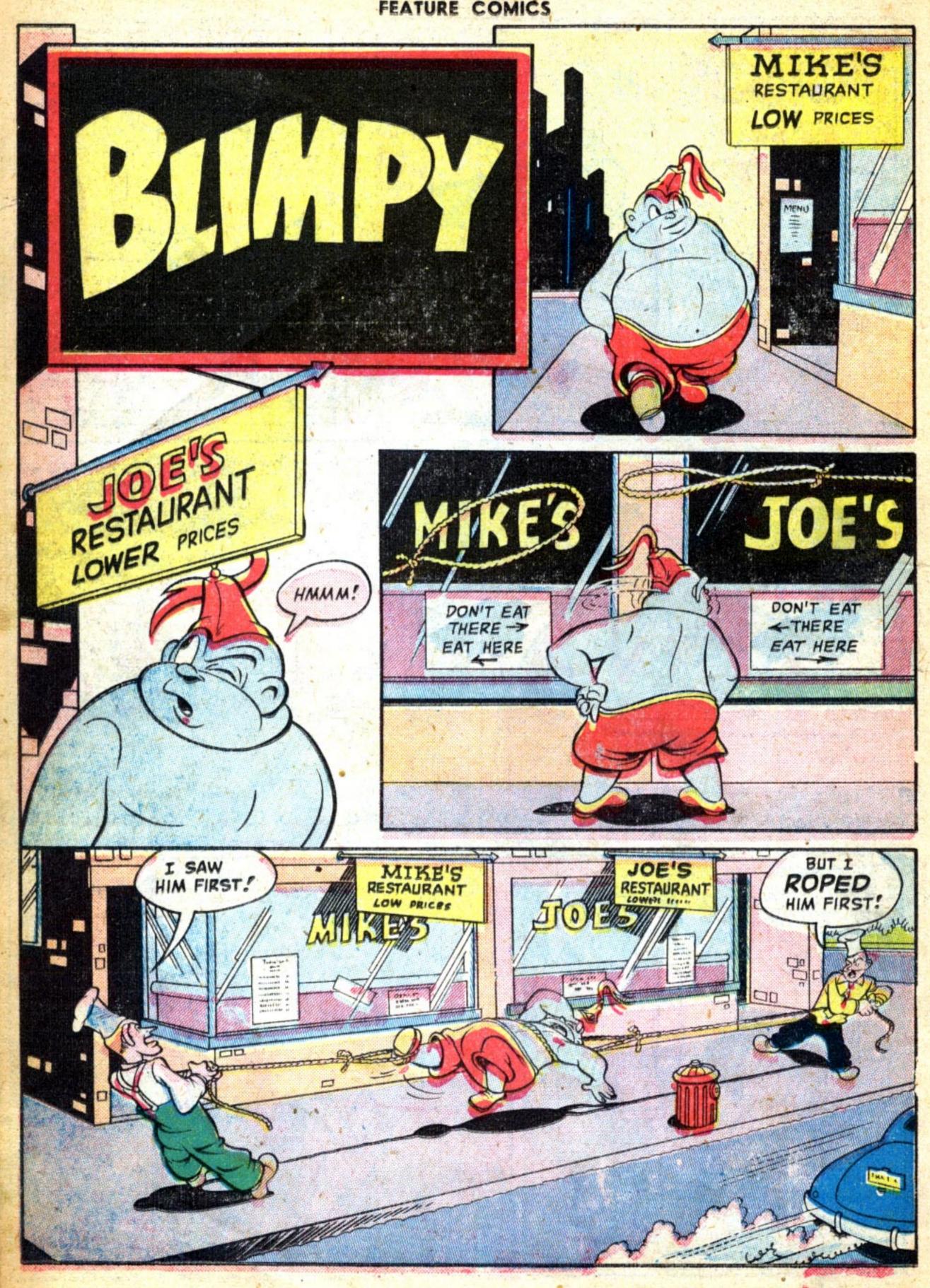








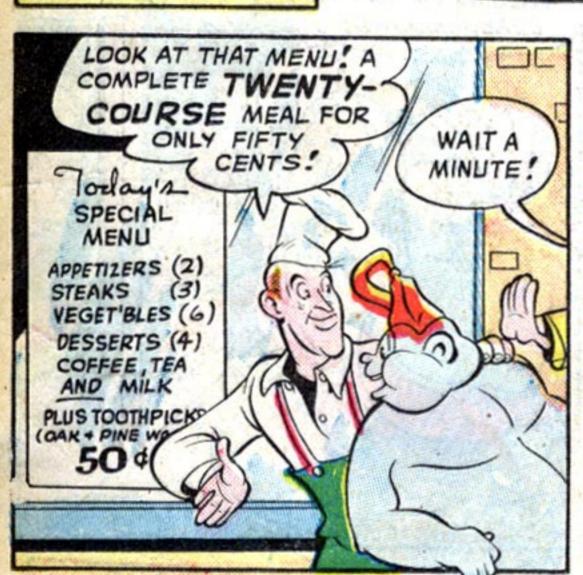




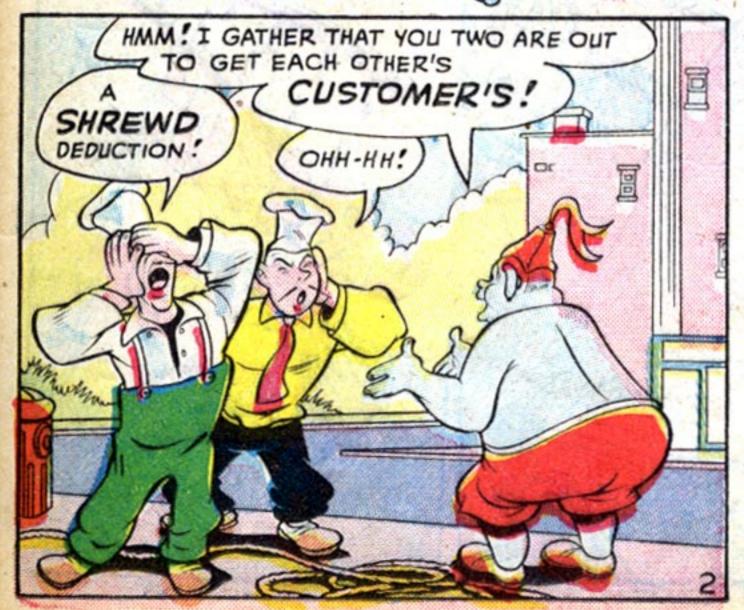




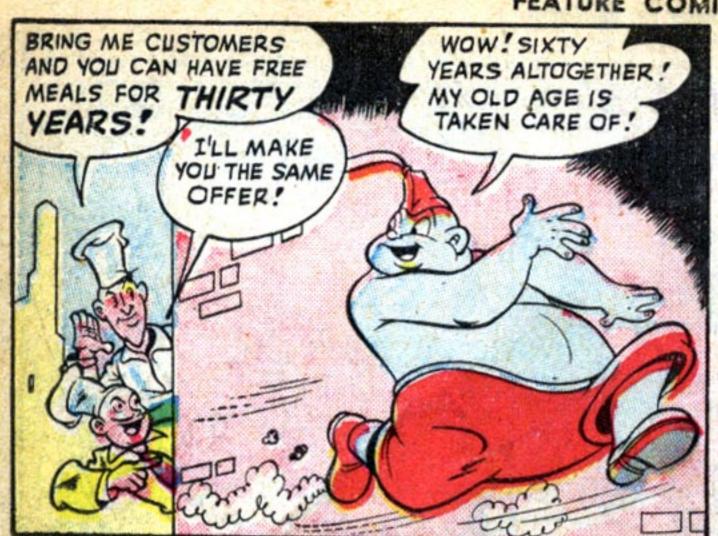


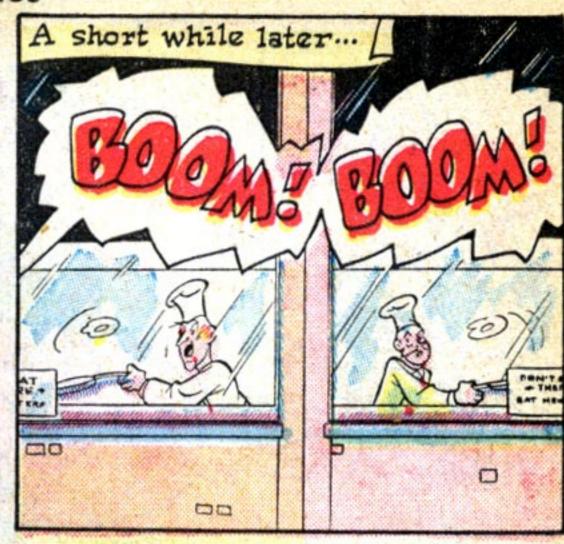


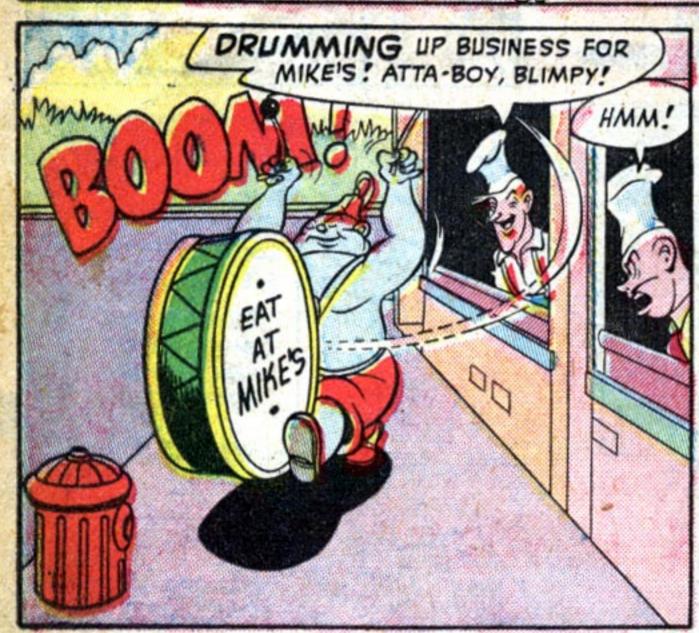






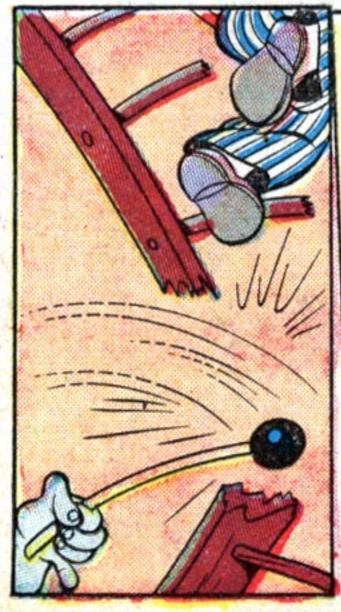


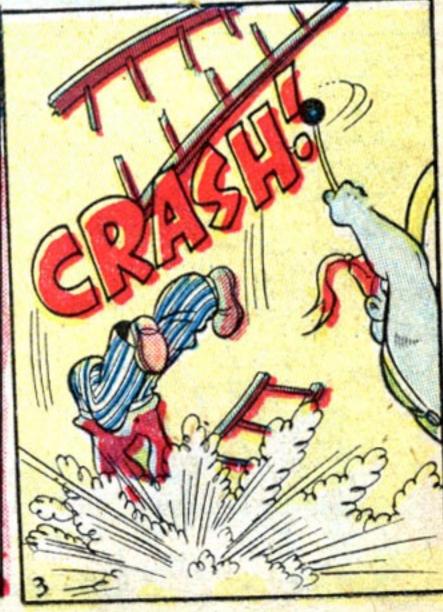








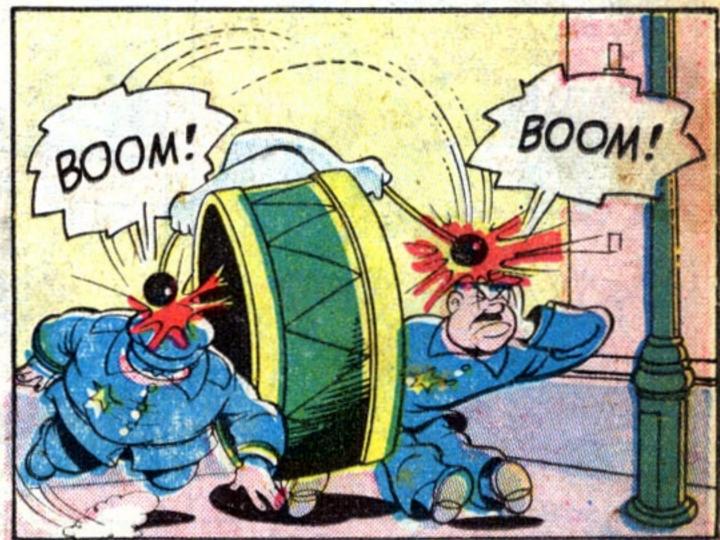


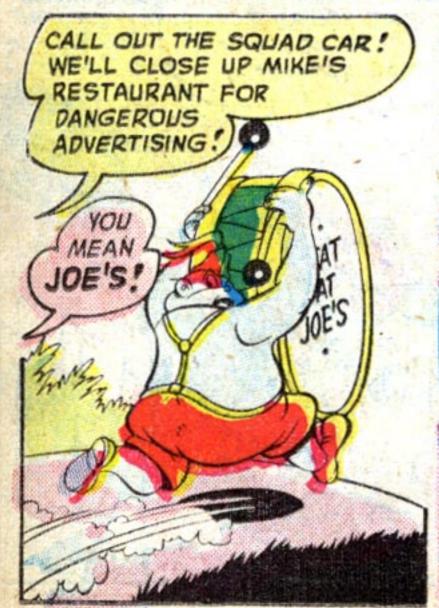






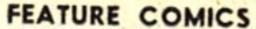




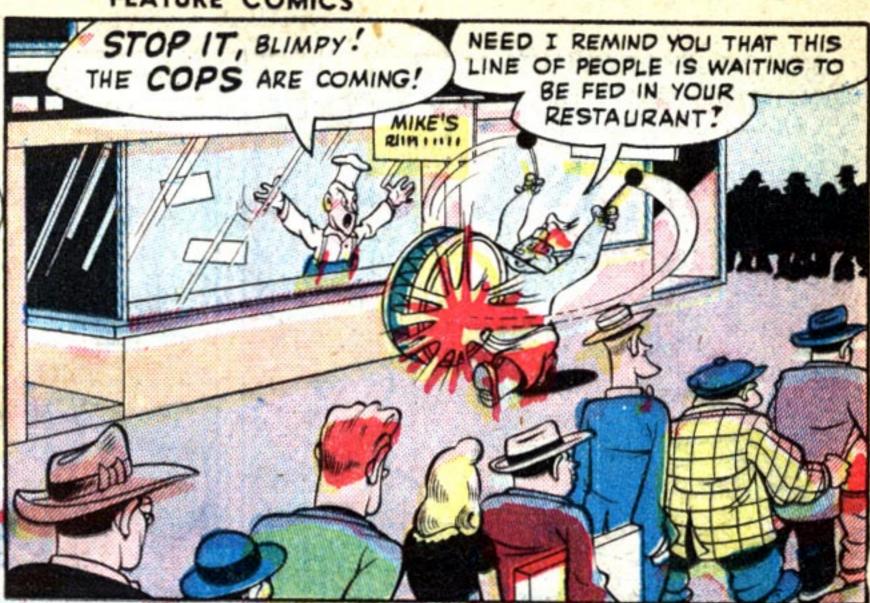




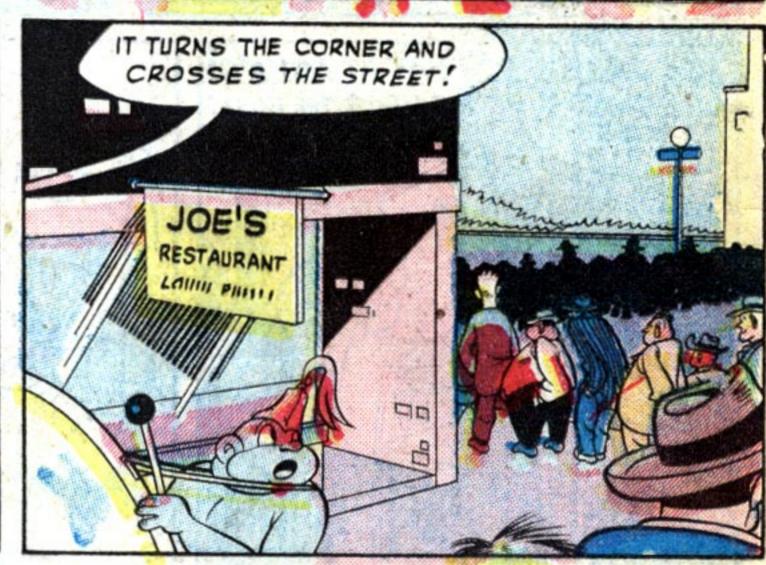


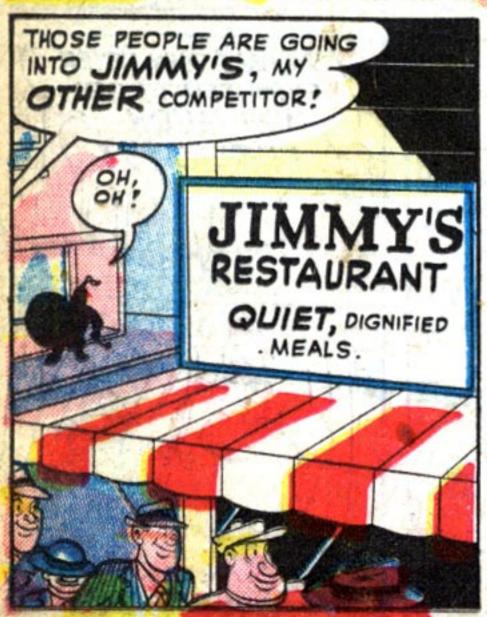


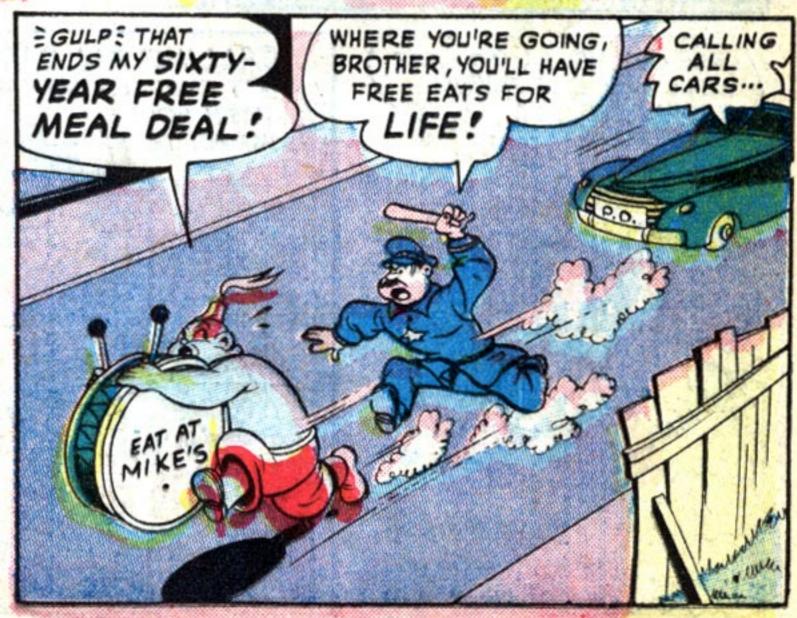






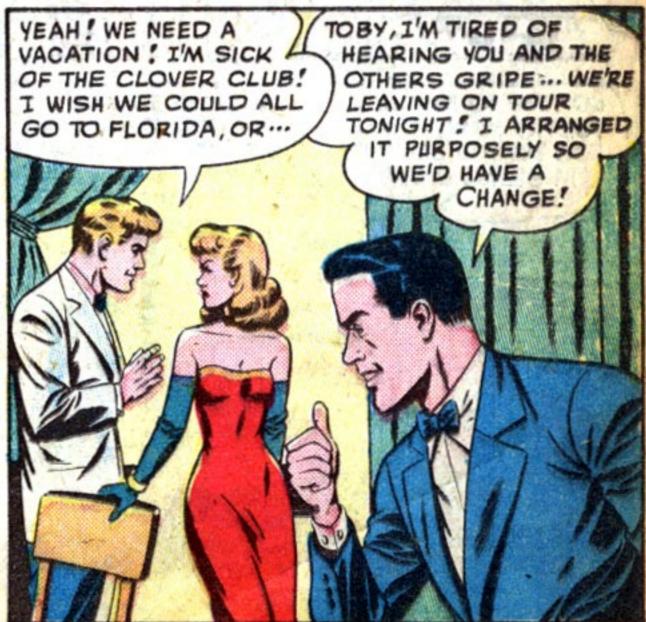






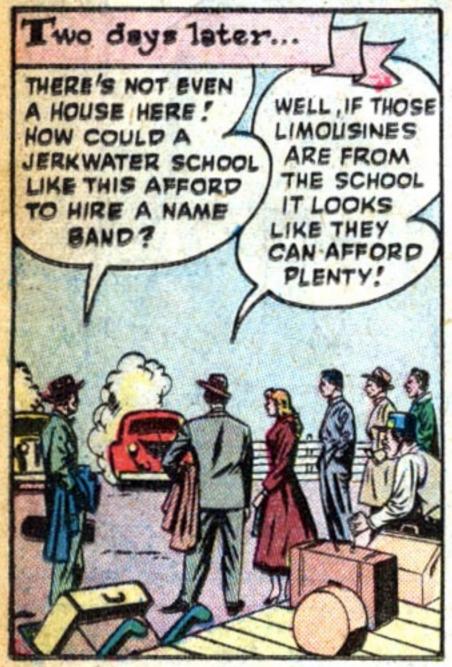












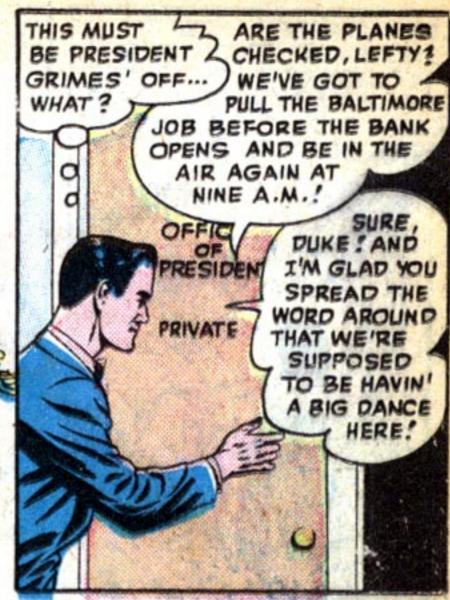
























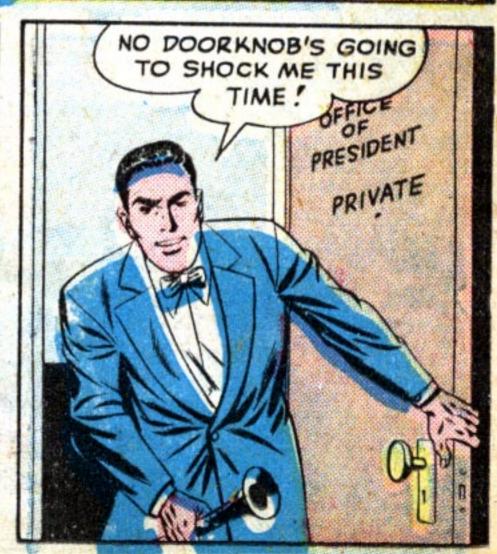










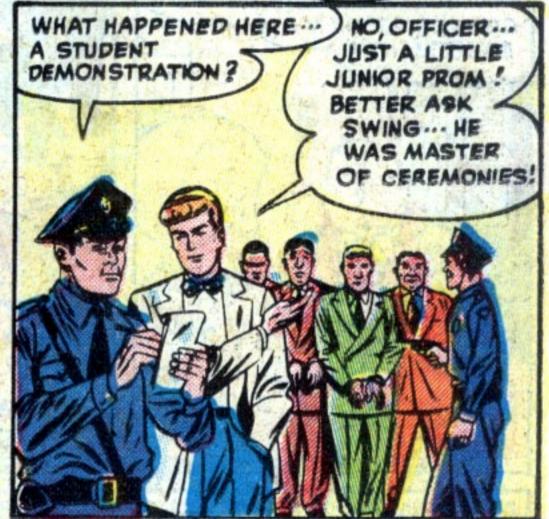




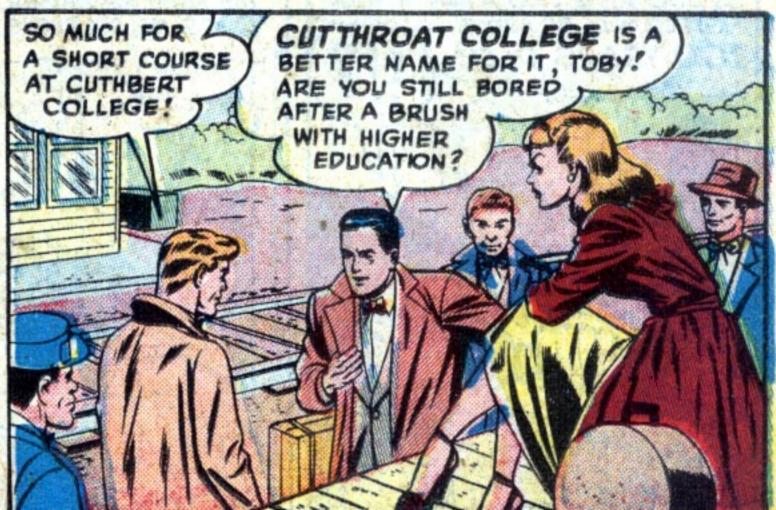










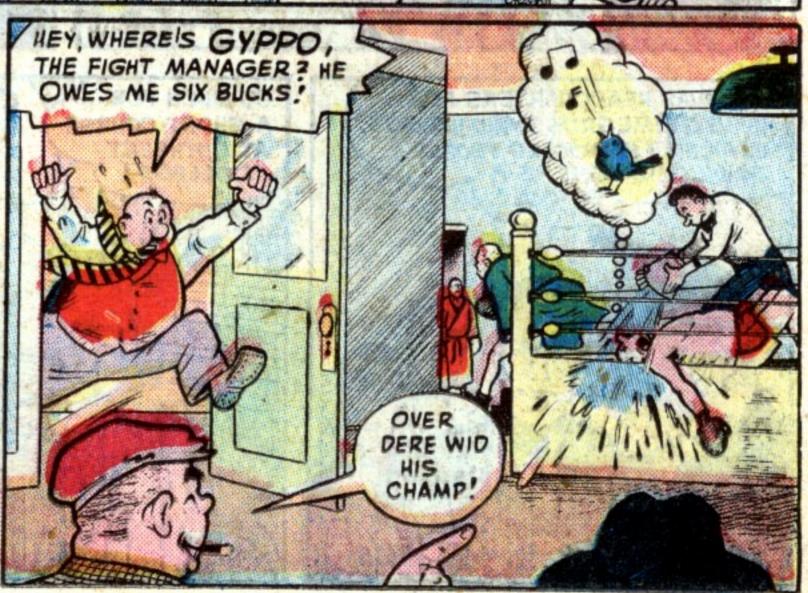






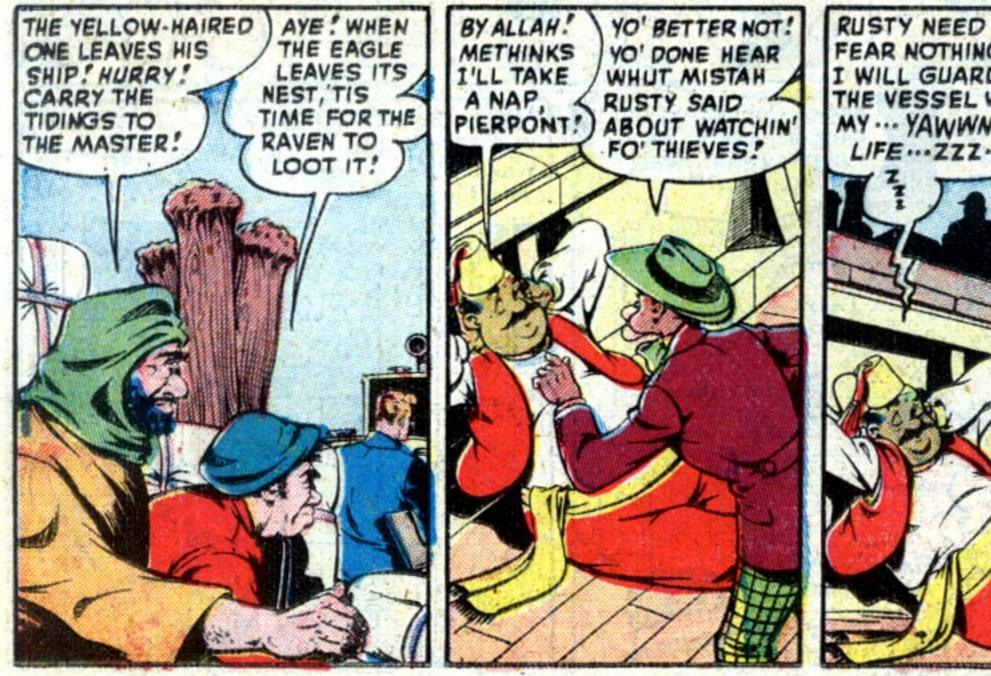






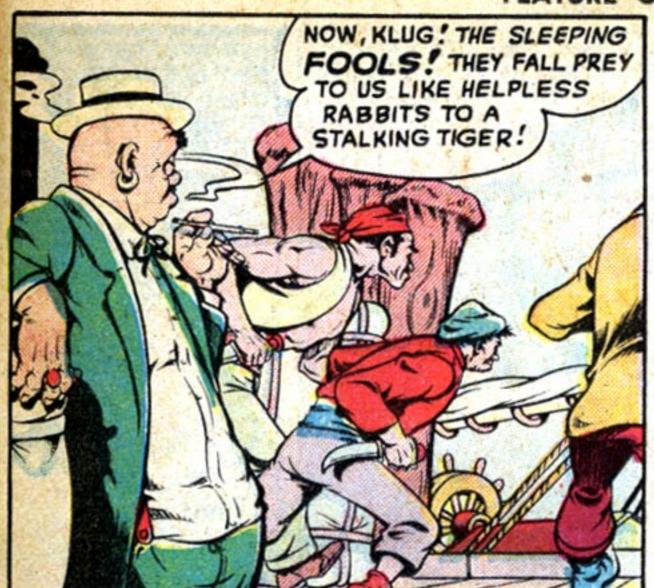






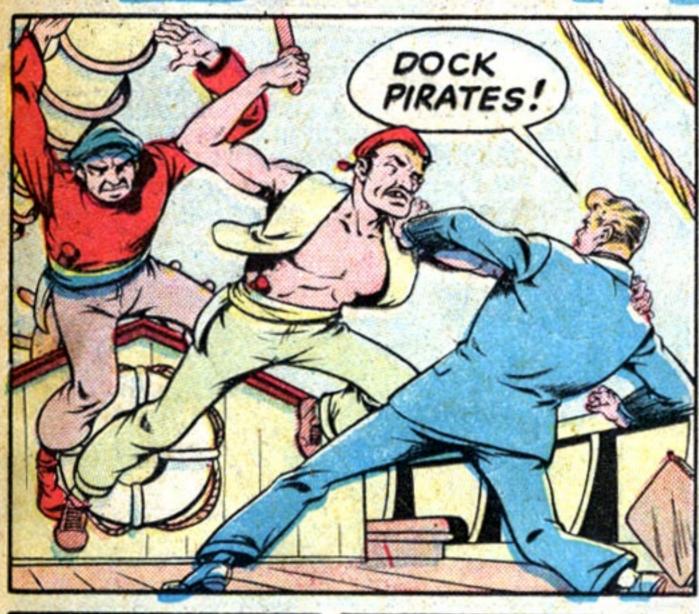


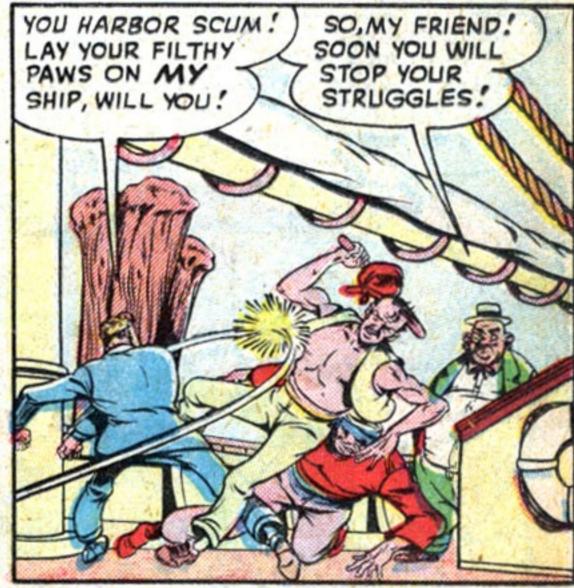




Later, Rusty returns to the schooner...

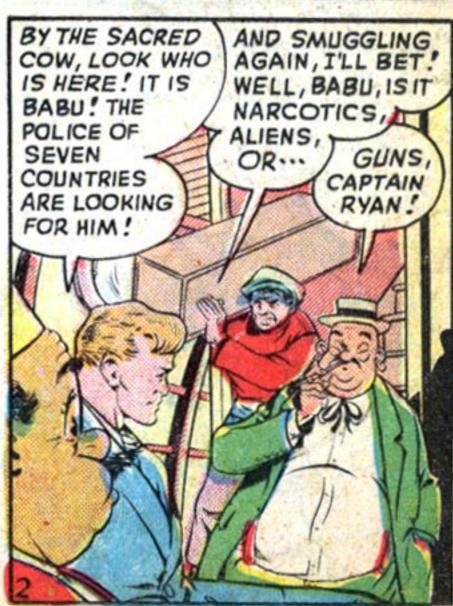


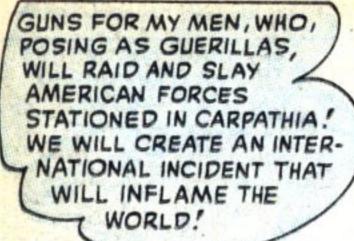








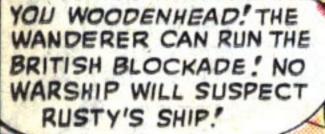












CAN THE GAB, BOYS!

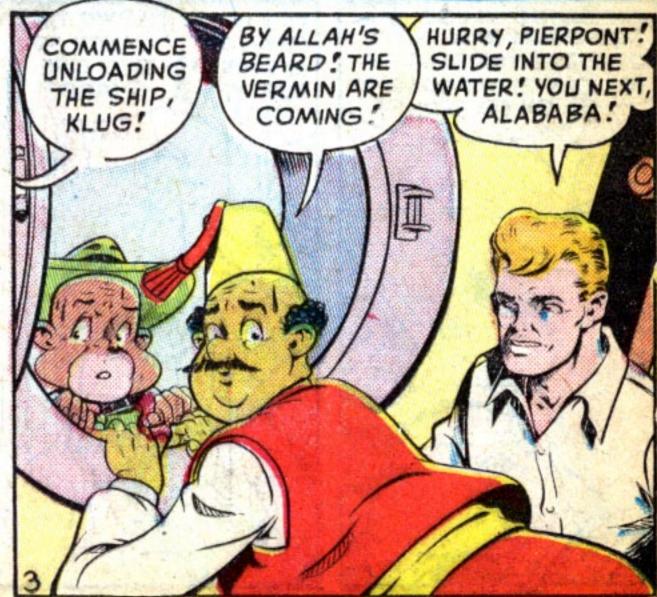
LET'S USE OUR ENERGY
IN RUBBING OUR ROPES
ON THE ROUGH CORNERS
OF THE GUN CASES!



Hours later, on a secluded part of the rugged Carpathian coast ...



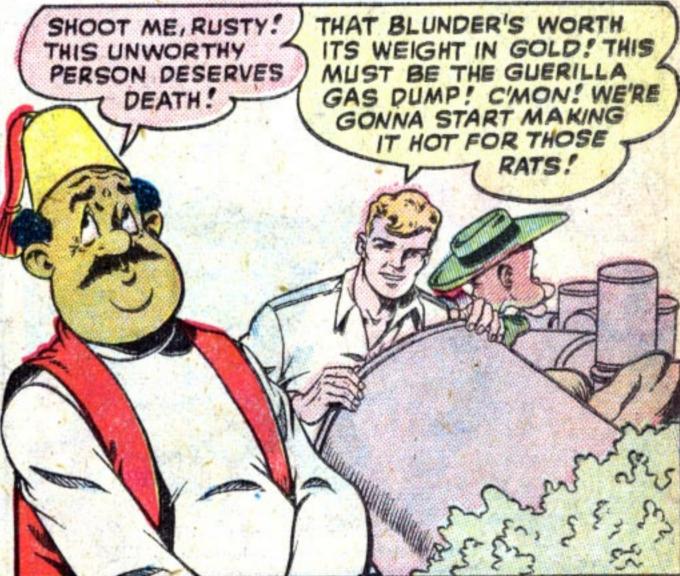




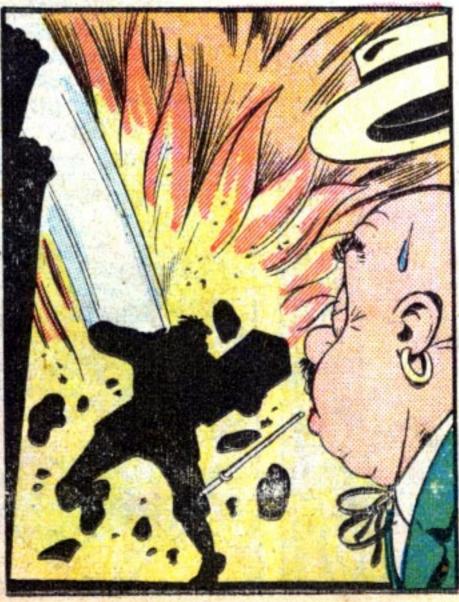










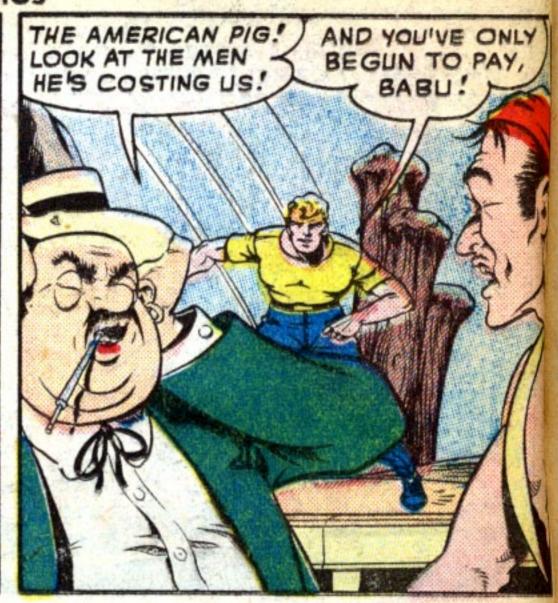


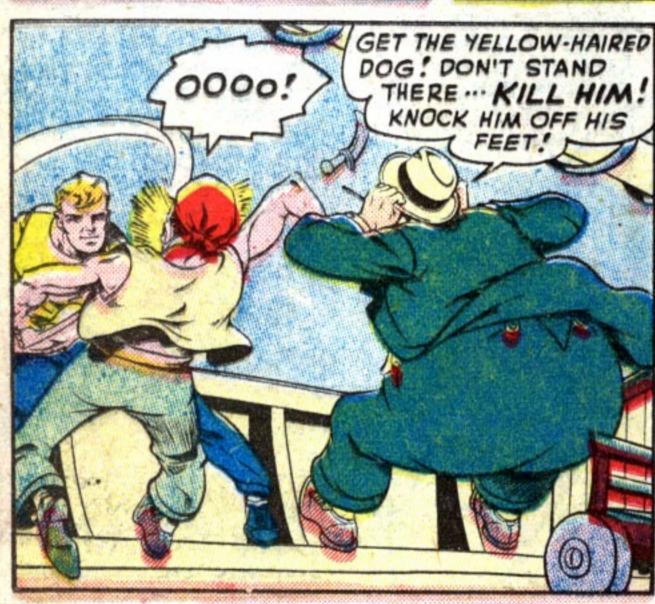


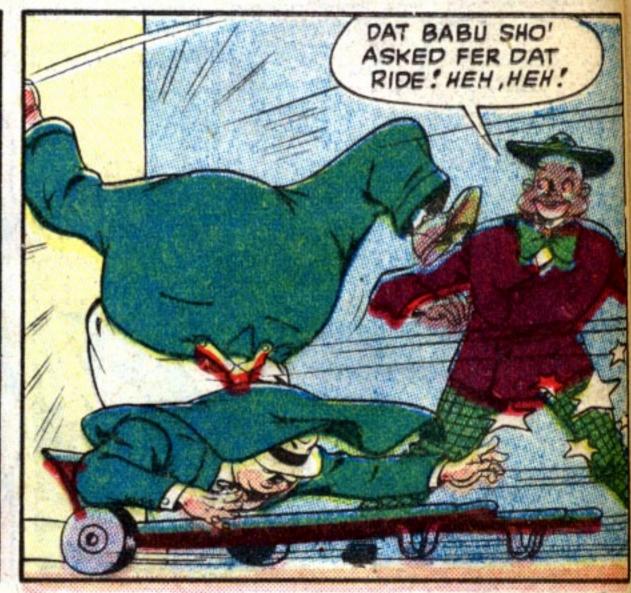


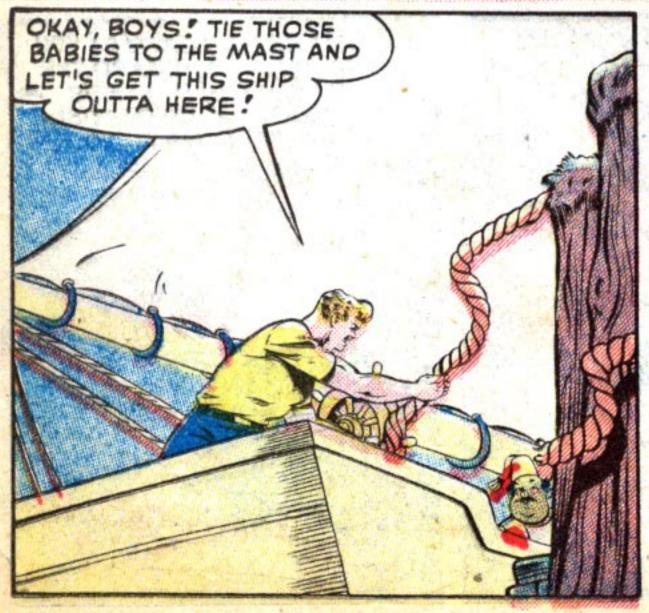
Meanwhile, the pursuing guerilla forces reach the gas dump and...





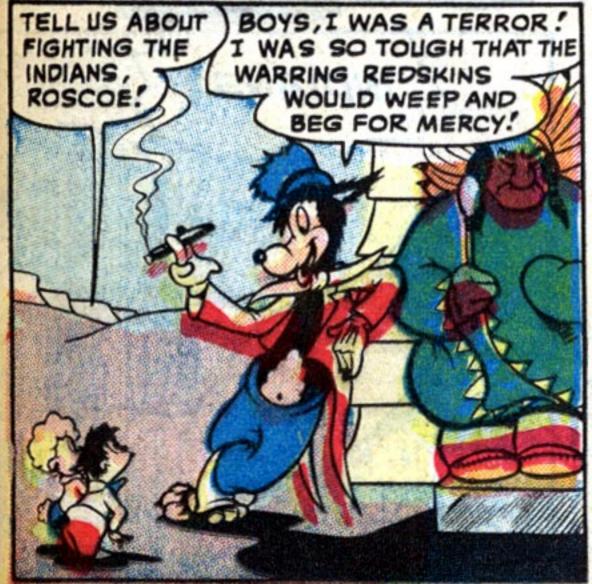


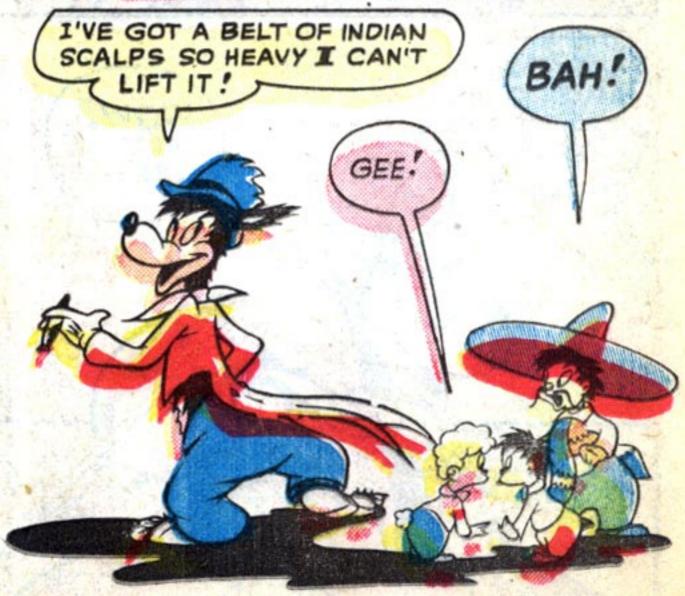


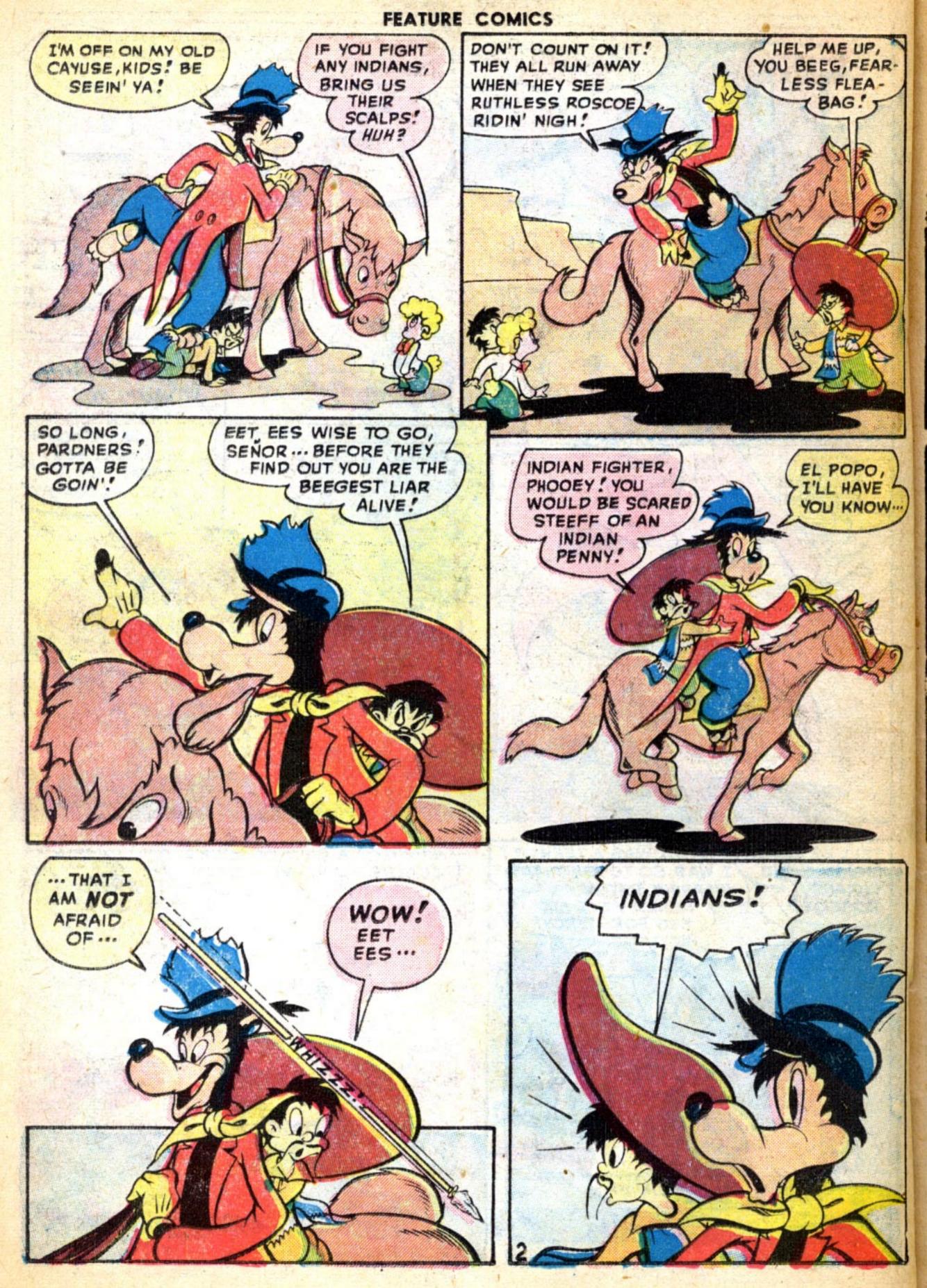


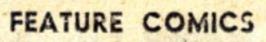








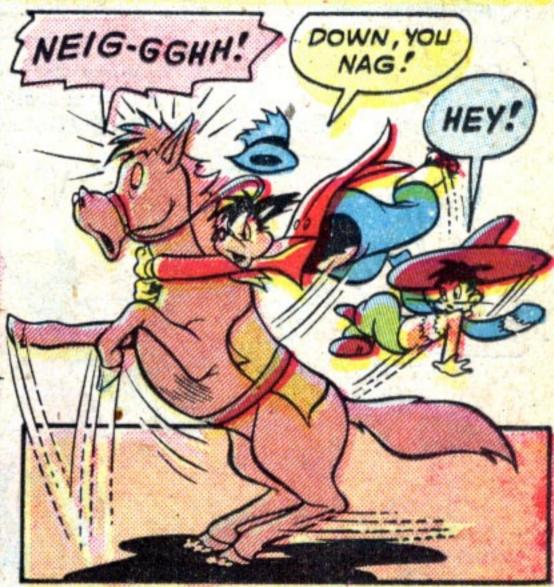


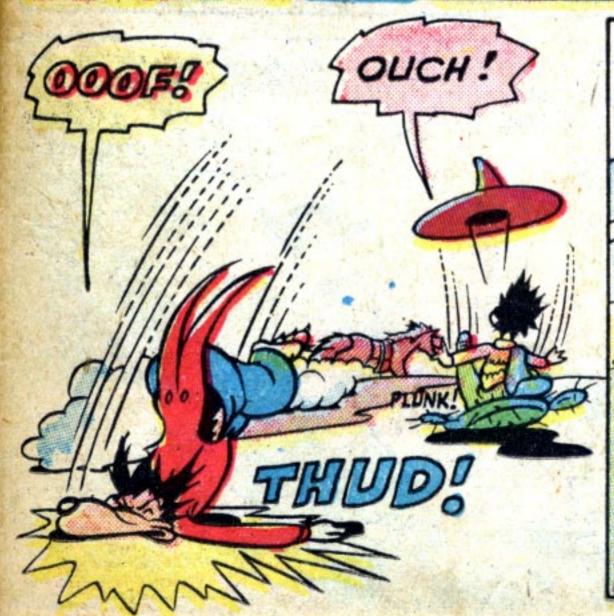


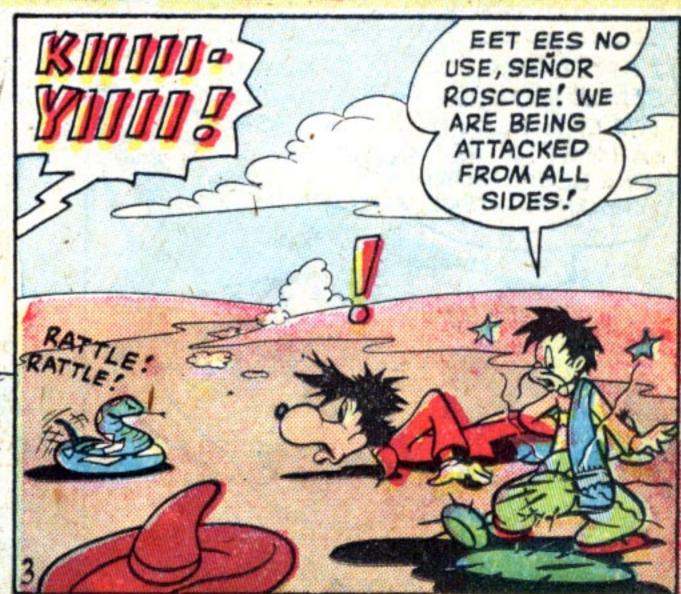






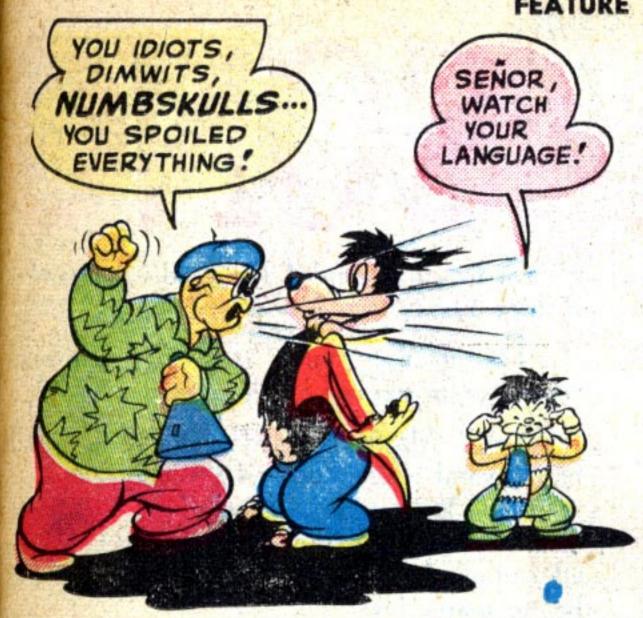


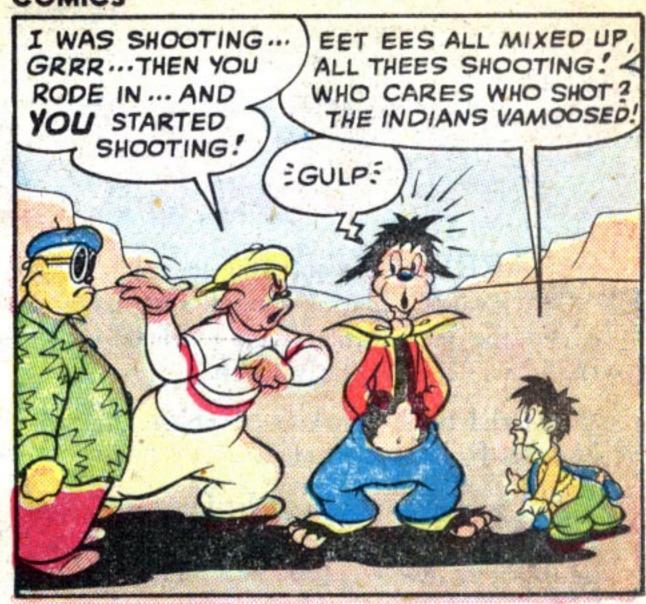


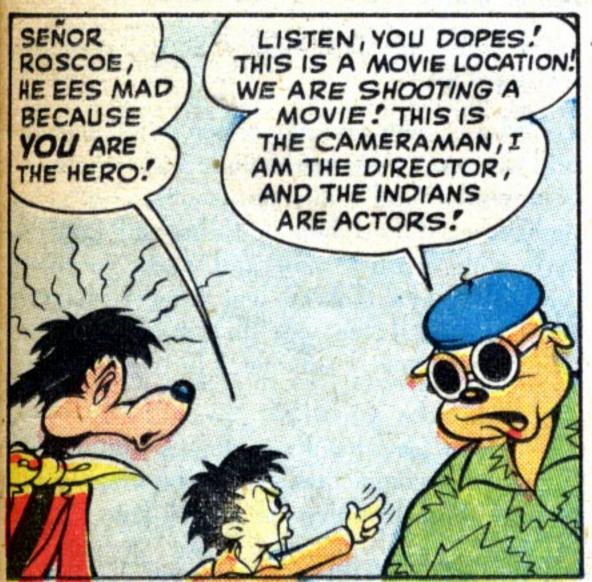




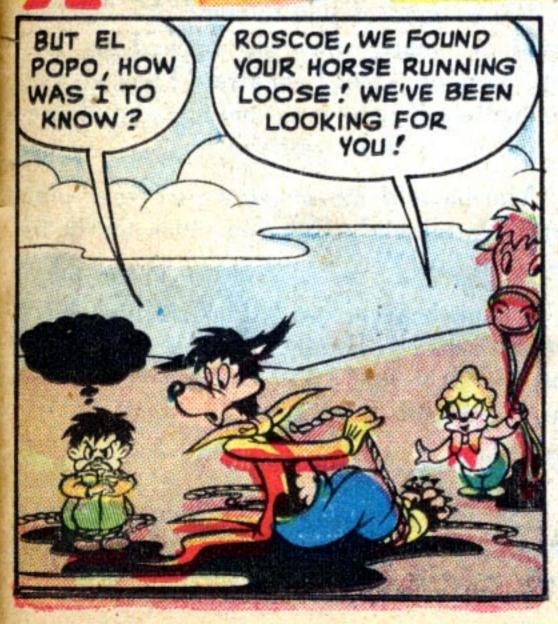


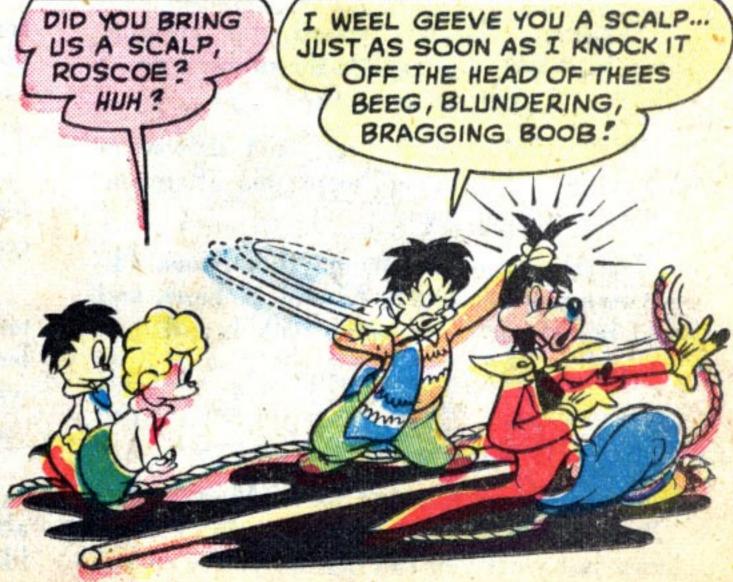












Sugnasing SonG

Evans." Darrel smiled and acknowledged the introduction with a silent whistle. Ingrid was spectacularly lovely.

"And I think you know Robley Duncan."
Martha Roberts continued.

"How are you today, Mr. Duncan?" Darrel asked. He had met the young scientist at
the Roberts' home before, and understood that
he was working with Dr. Roberts on some experiments having to do with the effects of poison
gas on human beings. He was brilliant. Dr.
Roberts had said ... but an odd sort of personality.

Duncan acknowledged the greeting perfunctorily. It was easy to see why. He had eyes and ears for no one but Ingrid Evans. Throughout the evening he said little, but sat with intent eyes watching her face

It was the next morning that Darrel received a phone call from Miss Evans Identifying herself, she seemed embarrassed

You see, Mr. Dane, Martha said that is, I ... well. I am troubled about something, and Martha suggested that you might help me."

"Gladly," Darrel replied, his curiosity aroused "Will you explain the problem now? Or shall I come to see you?"

"Oh, would you?" Her relief showed in her voice "I'll be at home this afternoon Could you come then?"

Darrel agreed, then hung up the phone He put in a call himself, to Martha Roberts, and told her of his conversation with Ingrid

"What goes on?" he inquired "Give me the background What makes you think I can help this beauteous damsel in distress?"

"She is beautiful, isn't she?" Martha said
"As for your helping her well, I don't
know just what you can do, but you're an ex-

pert at helping people! It's Dad's assistant—Robley Duncan!"

"The intense young scientist?" Darrel's voice rose in surprise. "The plot thickens!"

"Yes," Martha agreed. "He met Ingrid here several weeks ago and fell madly in love with her at first sight. She always made it clear that they were only friends, but he seemed certain that eventually he could persuade her to marry him."

"I could see last night that the poor guy was hard hit."

"Maybe you could see, too, that he is an odd person . . . so singleminded as to be hardly normal! And that's the trouble. Later last night, Ingrid told him that she had fallen in love with another man and plans to marry him. She says Robley was almost violent—shouted that if she wouldn't marry him, she would never marry anyone. He frightened her badly."

"I don't see what I can do," Darrel mused, "short of recommending that she wear a veil to hide those troublesome looks! But I'll talk to her."

"It's so good of you to come, Mr Dane!" Ingrid exclaimed when she opened her door that afternoon. "But I am afraid I was alarmed over nothing!" She was smiling, and showed no sign of strain or worry

"Martha told me something of your problem," Darrel said "Do you mean that it has his ceased to exist?"

"Thank heavens, yes! This morning I was tall terribly worried Really, Robley was so vio-you lent last night that I well, I felt that he was capable of almost anything!"

"And since this morning

"He was here himself, not long ago. I was almost afraid to open the door, but he was like a different person. He apologized for last

night . . . said he realized how selfish he had been, and wanted to wish me happiness. He even brought me a gift . . . a wedding present in advance!"

She led Darrel to the mantel and indicated a figure placed in the center. It was a hollow glass swan, so delicate and fragile that it seemed almost as if a hard breath might shatter it.

"Lovely, isn't it? Robley was so afraid I would break it that he wouldn't let me touch it. He placed it there himself. He also brought me a recording. A surprise . . . I don't know what it is. He asked me, as one last favor, to play it, alone, at nine o'clock this evening . . . his swan song, you see!"

Darrel left with a feeling of uneasiness nagging at the back of his brain. This sudden volteface, this gentle gesture seemed uncharacteristic of the violent scientist. He tried to argue himself out of it, but, shortly after eight o'clock that evening, he gave in to the feeling. He drove to Duncan's apartment and knocked at the door.

"I was just passing by," Darrel explained, "and thought I'd say hello!" The scientist seemed ill at ease, and Darrel felt so himself. He glanced around the living room and his gaze was caught by a figure on the mantel-piece—a fragile glass swan.

"You're just in time to listen to some music,"
Duncan said. "I have a special recording I
must play at nine o'clock... a sort of tryst!"

Recordings glass swans and Duncan had been working with poison gas! Suspicions fitted together in Darrel's mind and he stiffened abruptly. So it was to be truly a swan song! He looked up to find Duncan watching him with an odd smile on his face.

"So you've guessed! You must have been talking to Ingrid! Well, it doesn't matter now, you can't stop me you'll just go along too!"

Darrel plunged for the door, but found it unyielding to his pull. The scientist smiled again.

"Locks are a hobby of mine. So is music, and this room has been soundproofed for record playing. There isn't a phone in it, so you can't

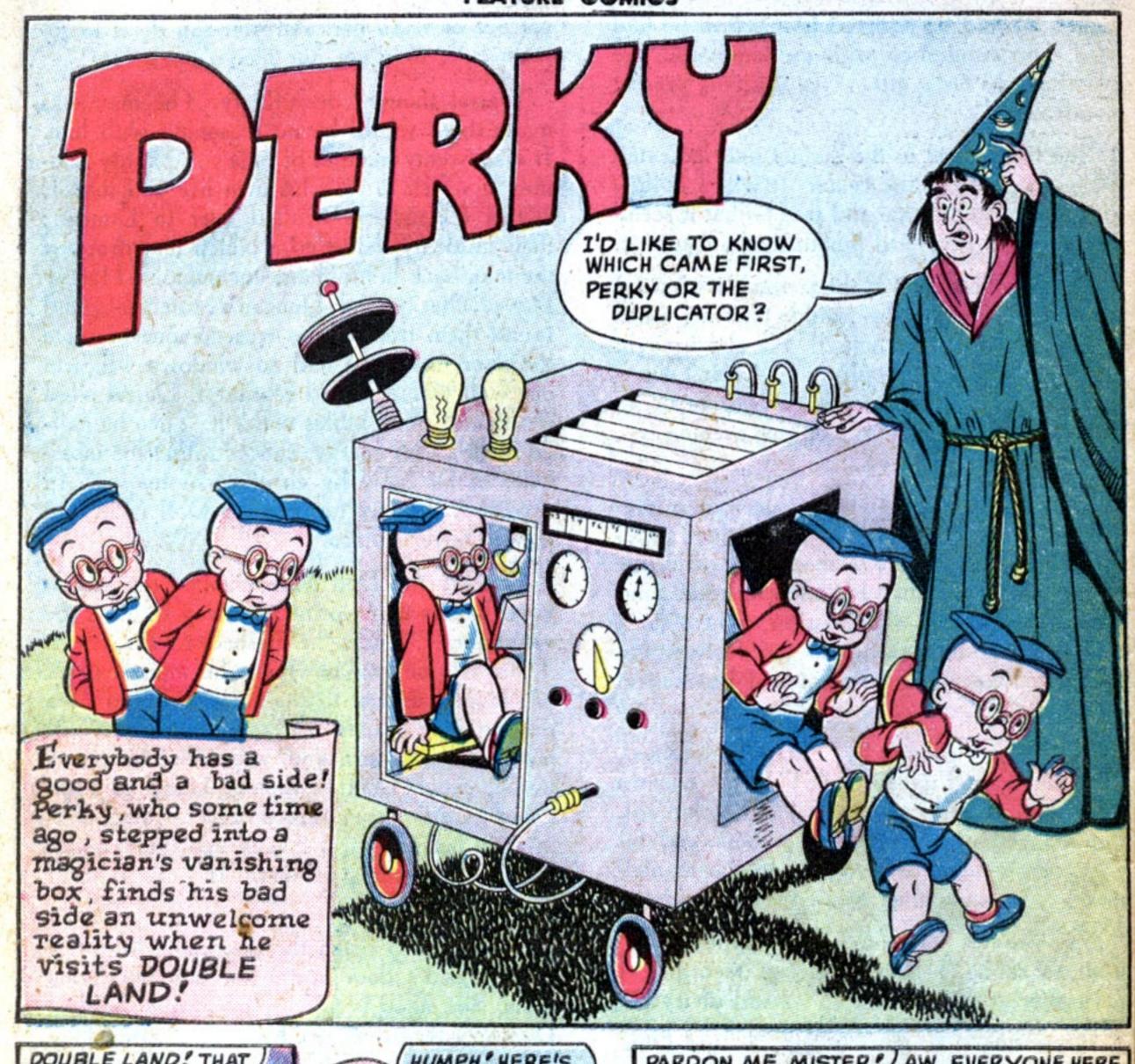
get out or warn her. All you can do is to remain . . . to share our nine-o'clock fate!"

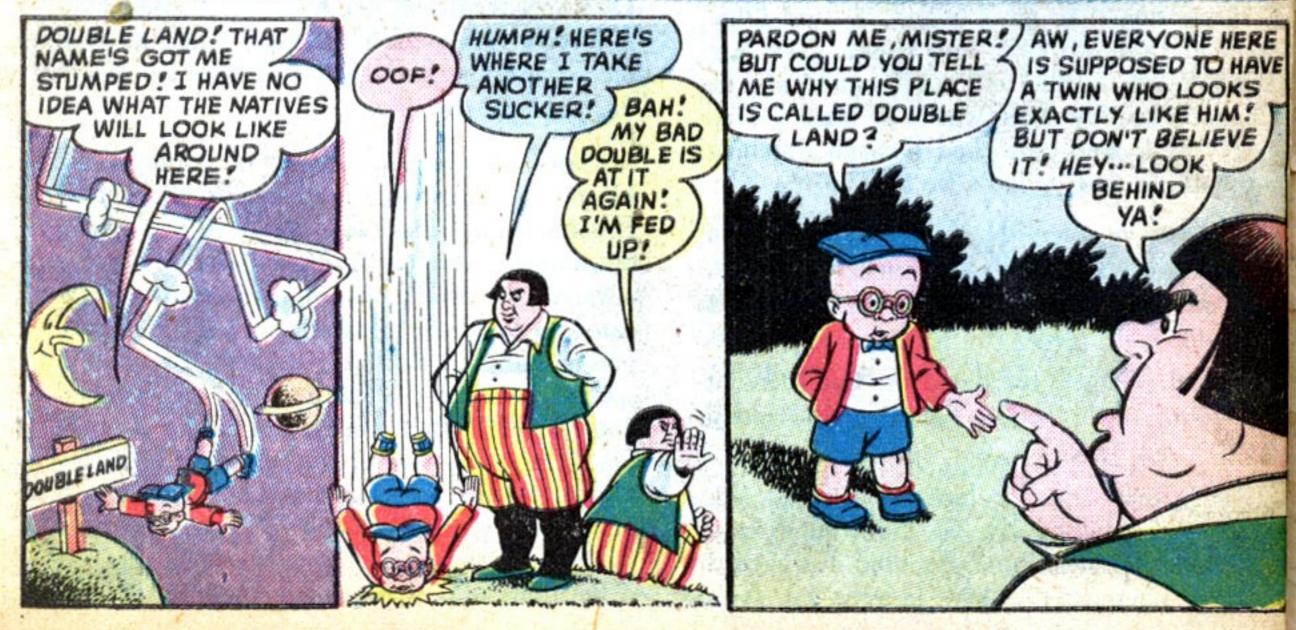
Darrel thought desperately. The man was mad; there would be no reasoning with him. It was twenty minutes of nine . . . twenty minutes in which to save his own life and that of Ingrid Evans. He strolled over to Duncan; then suddenly delivered a punch that dropped the man back in his chair, unconscious. Hastily Darrel checked on Duncan's statements and found them true. There was no time to force the door, the room had no windows. High in one wall was a baffled ventilator. Darrel piled chairs and small tables under it. Then he called forth all his energy, concentrating the molecules of his body by an effort of his will. In a second, the tiny form of the Doll Man had taken Darrel's place.

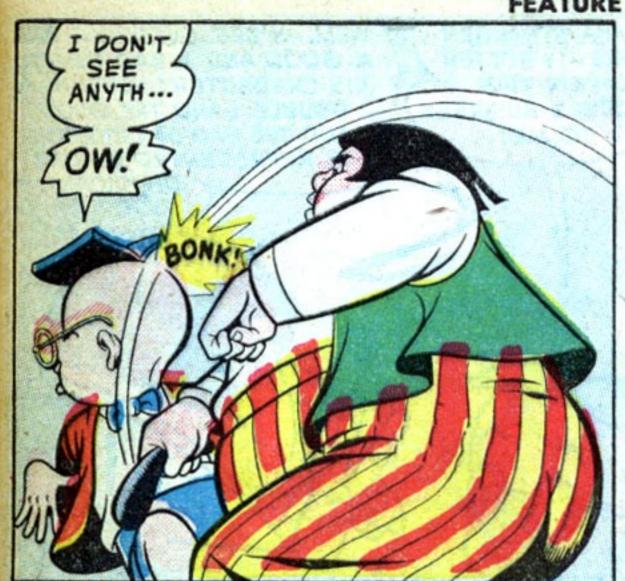
Quickly the Doll Man climbed the improvised ladder and wormed his way through the ventilator. Outside, he dashed to the street. There was no time to assume his natural form. He leaped unseen to the running board of a passing car; leaped off again when the car made a wrong turn and, imperilled by heavy traffic, caught another running board of a car going in the proper direction. This mad dash brought him to Ingrid Evans' apartment building. Two minutes of nine! If only Ingrid's watch were not fast!

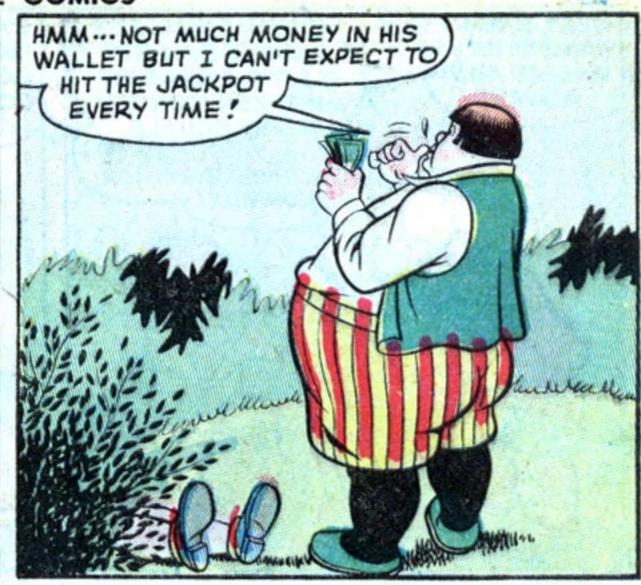
Stretching to reach the doorknob, he threw open Ingrid's door and burst into her living room. She stood beside a phonograph, holding Duncan's record in her hand, Gathering himself for a spring the Doll Man sailed through the air and knocked the record from her grasp, to shatter on the floor.

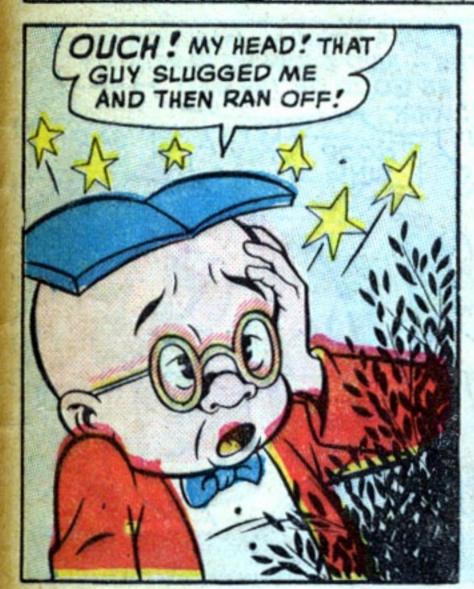
Later, after he had assumed his normal form, Darrel explained to Ingrid and to the police. Breaking into Duncan's apartment, wearing the masks suggested by Darrel, the police discovered the dead body of the scientist. Duncan had filled the glass swans with a deadly poison gas and had sealed them. He had a special recording, containing a high-pitched note of music that would shatter the delicate glass, releasing the poison gas and instantly killing anyone in the room. Had the recordings been played at nine o'clock, the tune would have been one of suicide and murder if the Doll Man had not intervened.

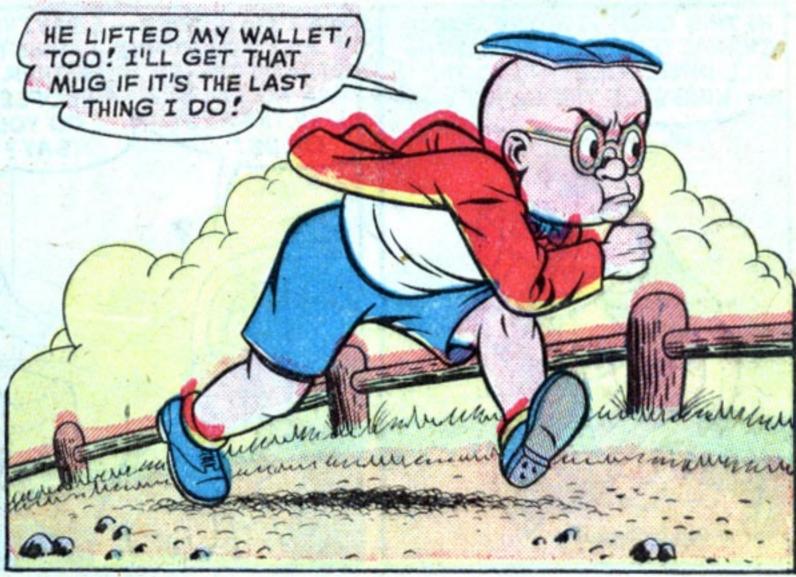






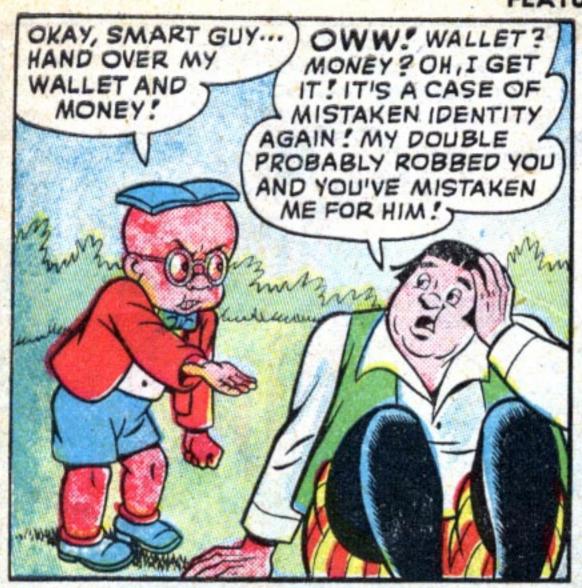










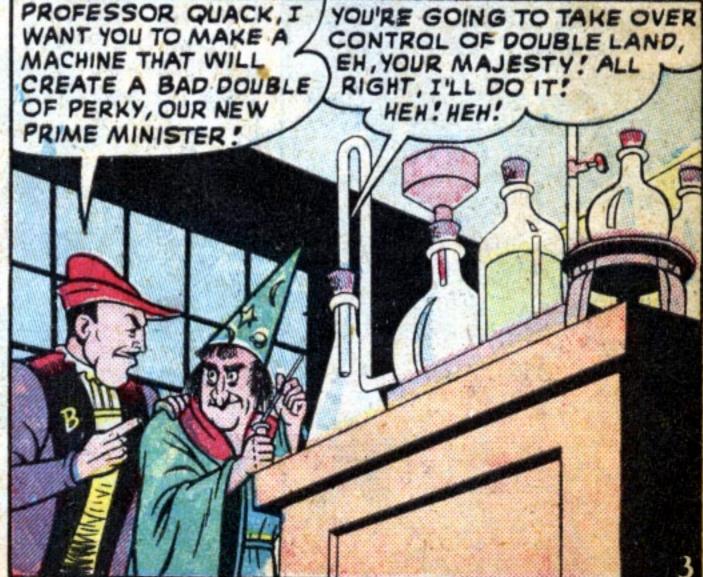




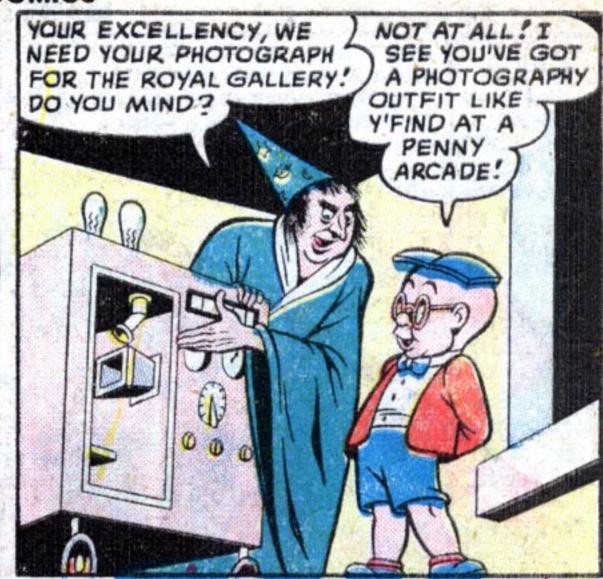


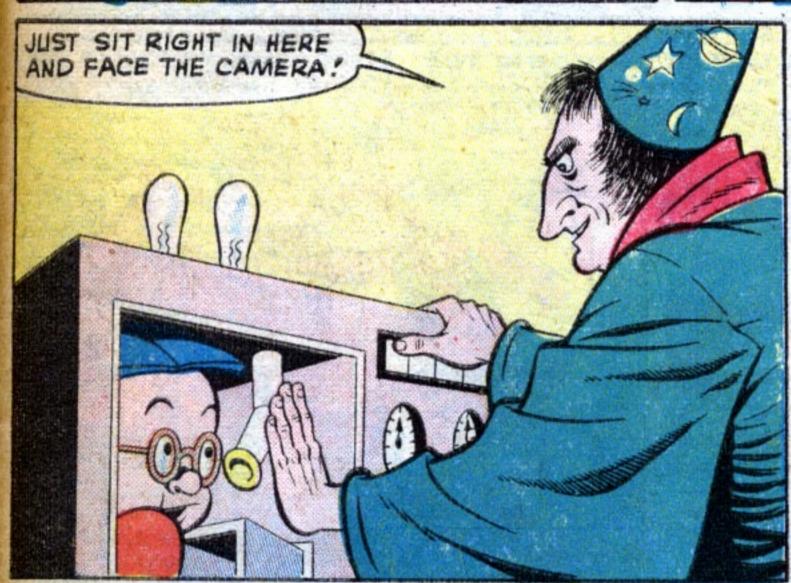




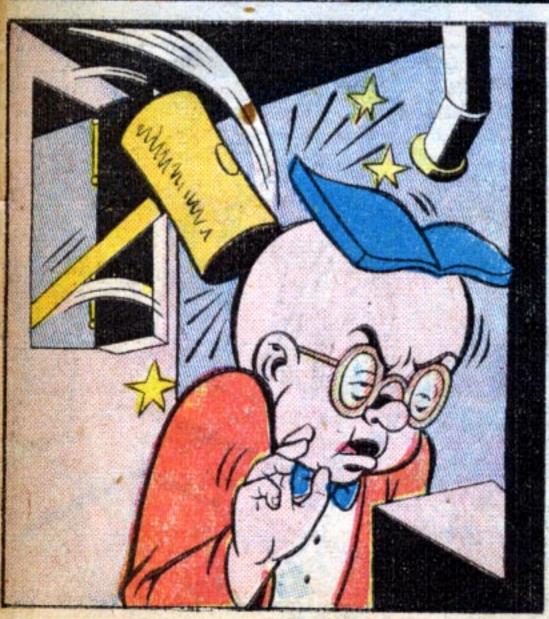


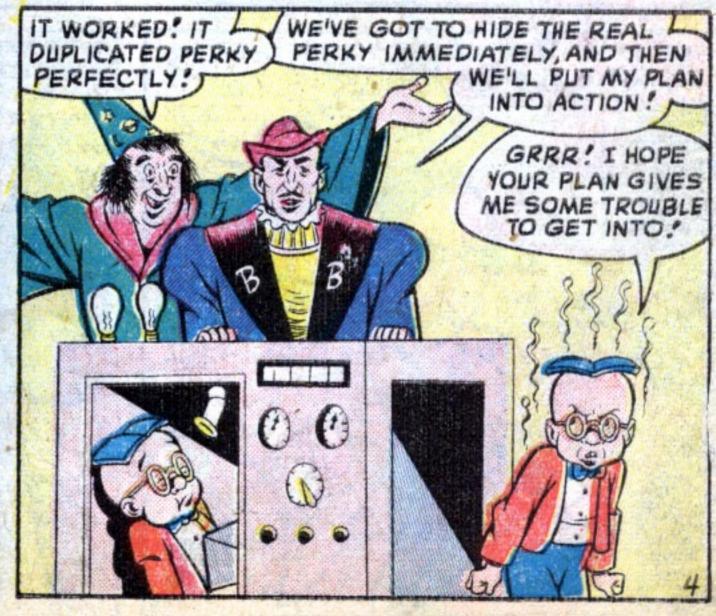


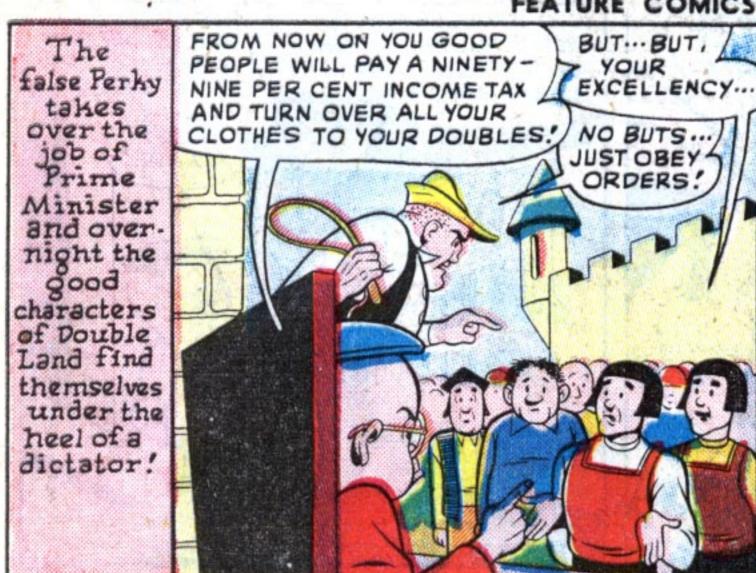


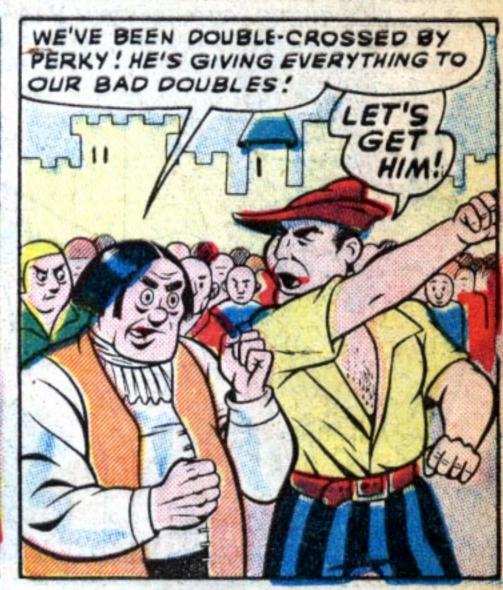














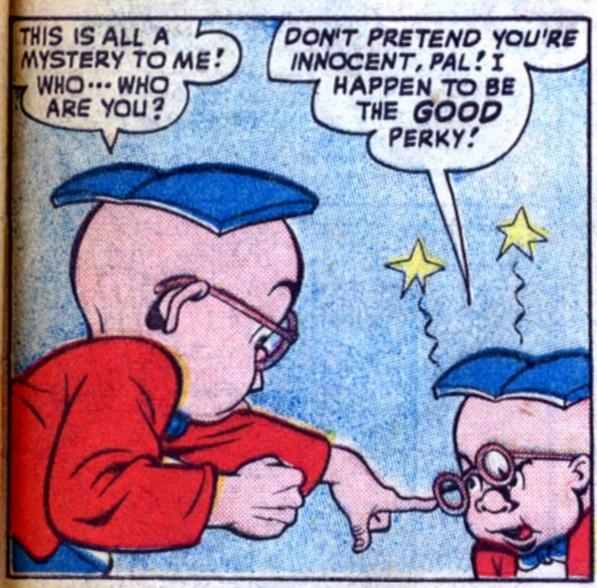


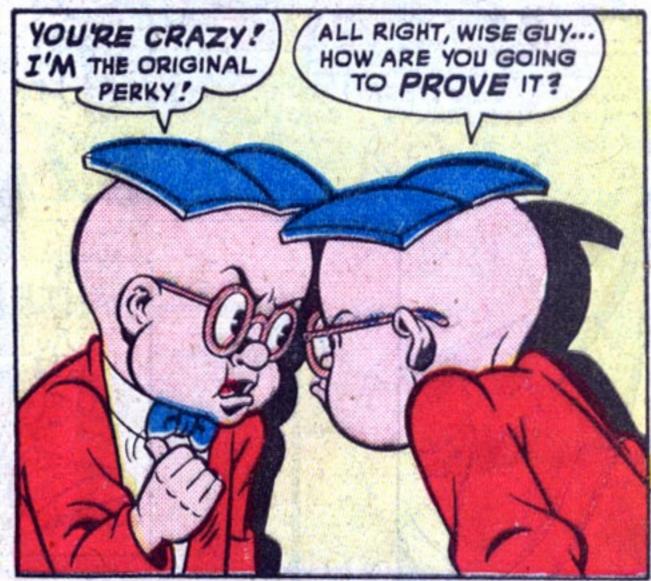




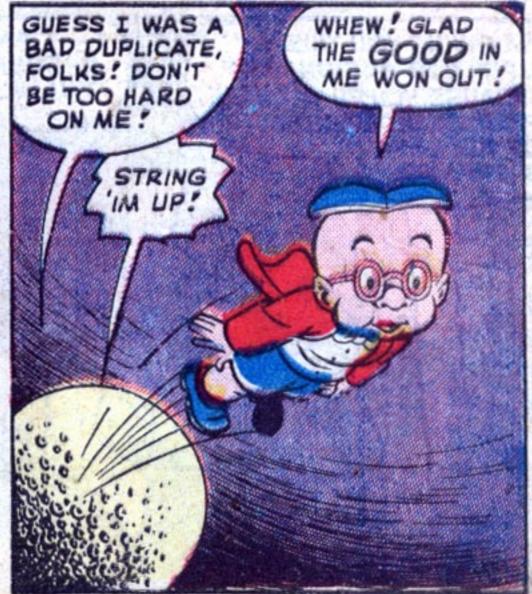




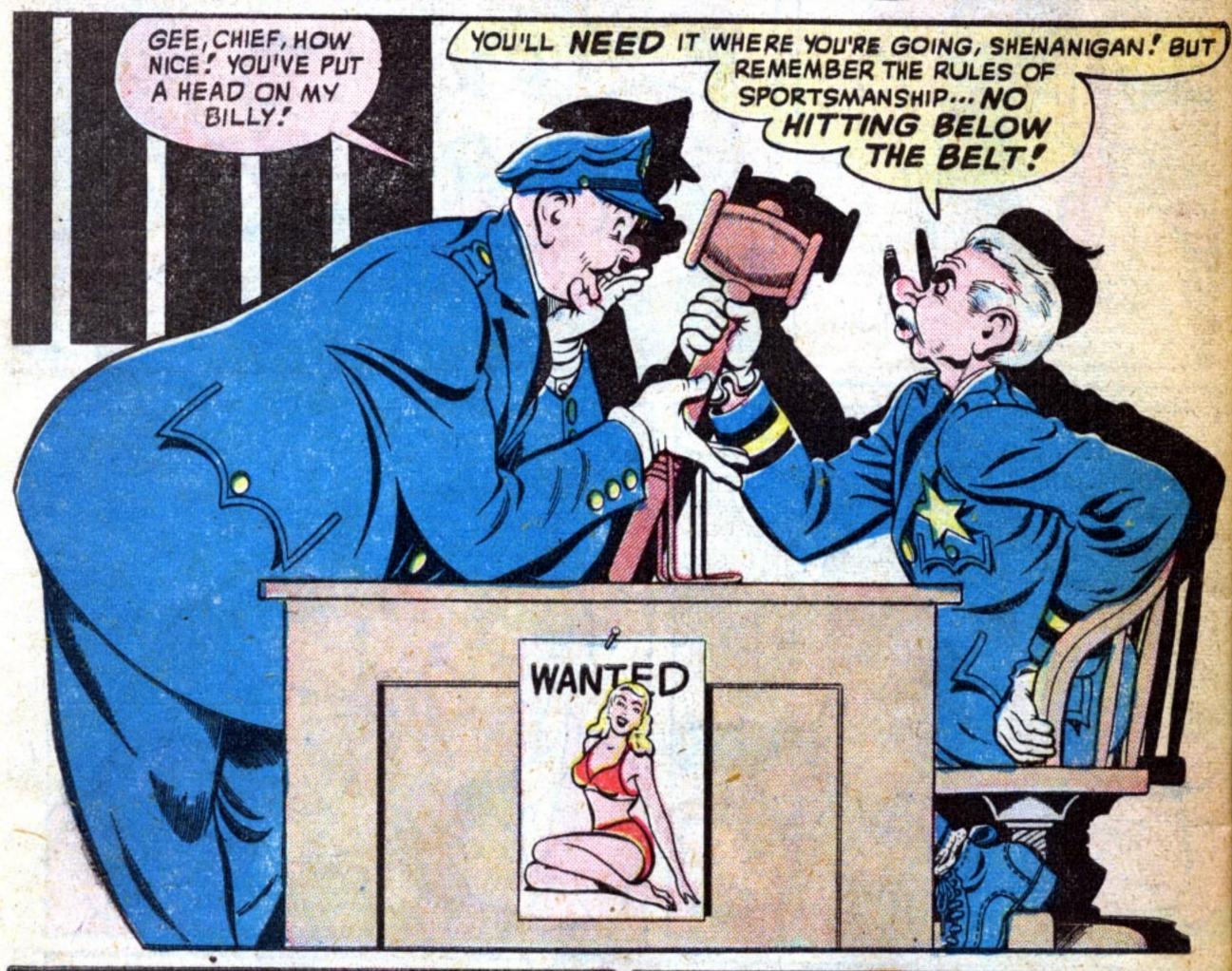






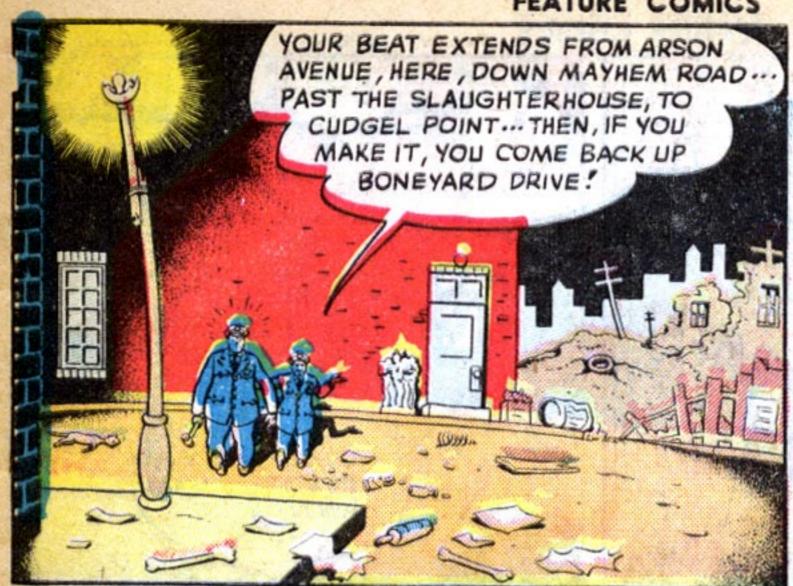


SHAMANIGAN





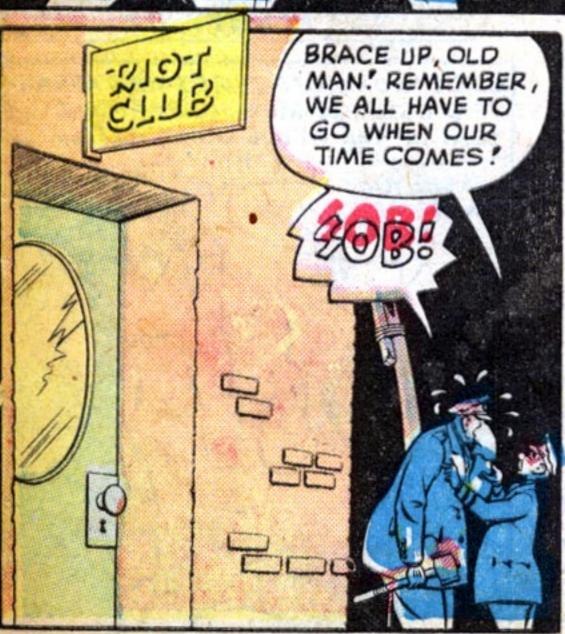


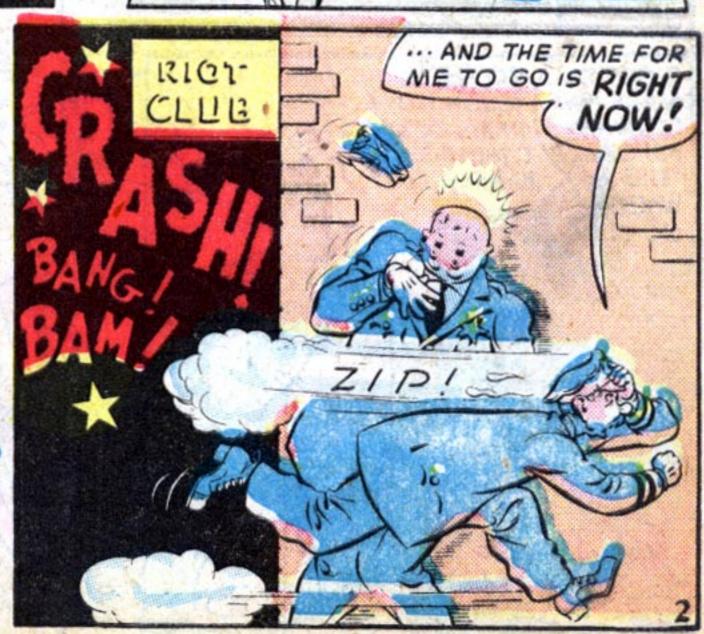




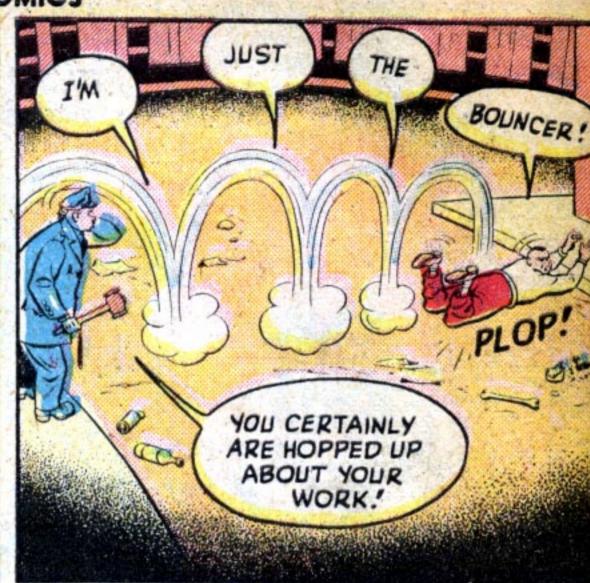


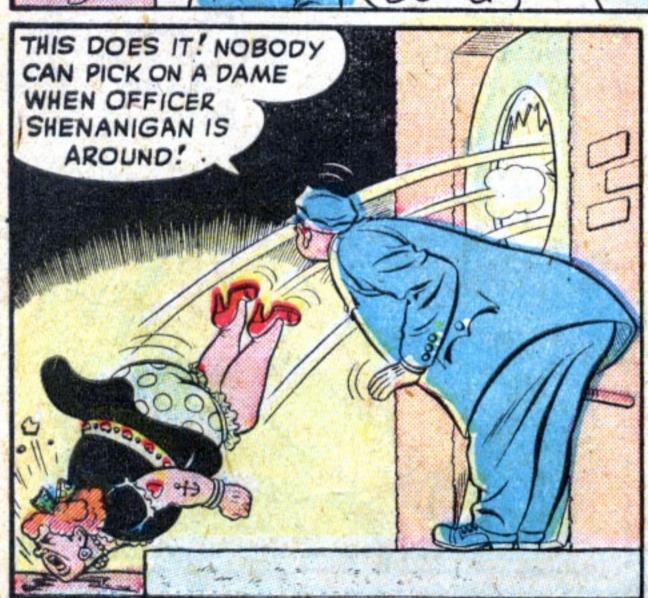


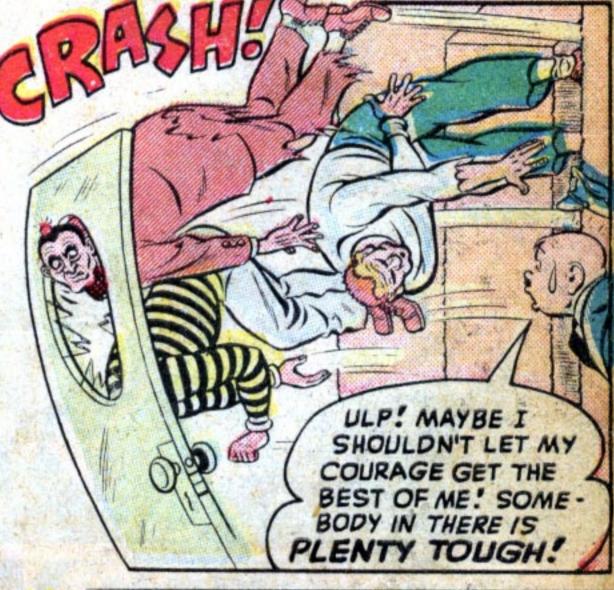






















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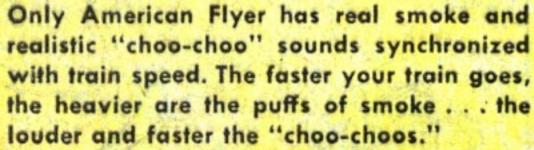


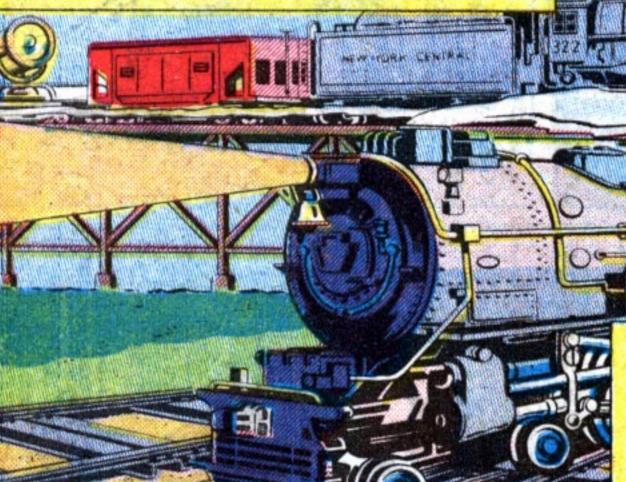




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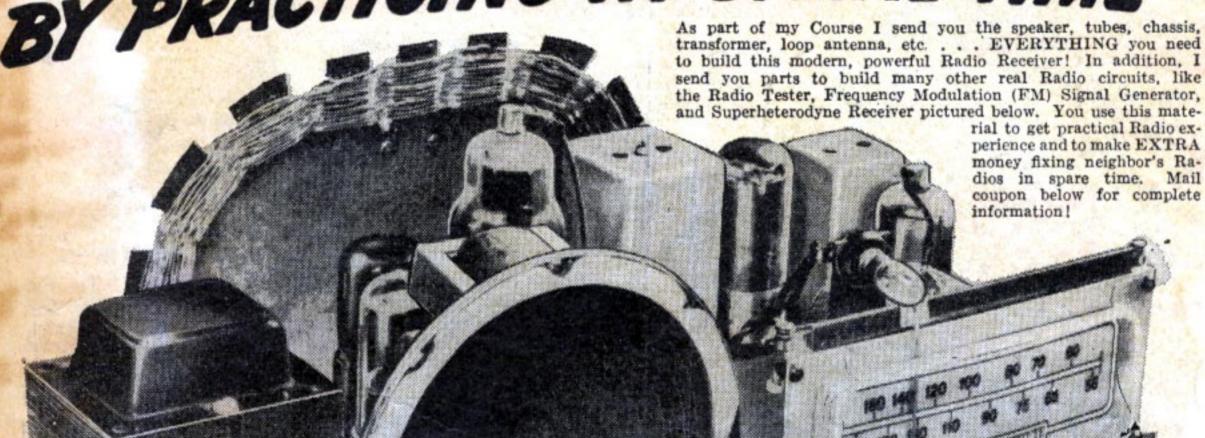


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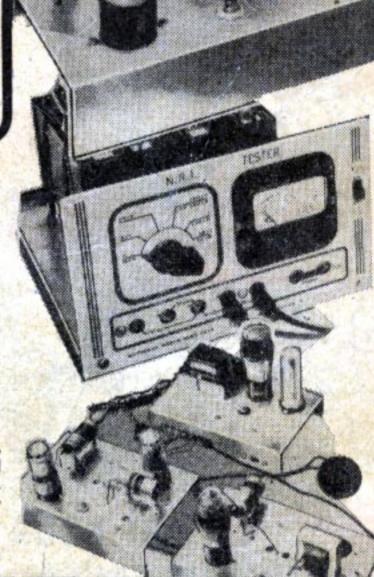
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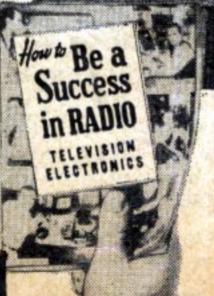
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